

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Cold Bay Community Center
Cold Bay, Alaska
September 27, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Melissa Berns
Coral Chernoff
Patrick Holmes - (Telephonic)
Richard Koso - (Telephonic)
Samuel Rohrer
Thomas Schwantes
Antone Shelikoff
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/27/2017)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Karen. Good morning, everyone. This is day two of
9 our meetings, and most of our activity today is
10 reports, but we'll start by introductions.
11
12 And I guess, Rebecca, we'll start with
13 you this morning.
14
15 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Rebecca Skinner
16 from Kodiak.
17
18 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff,
19 Kodiak.
20
21 MS. BERNES: Melissa Bernes, Old
22 Harbor.
23
24 MR. ROHRER: Sam Rohrer, Kodiak.
25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes, Kodiak.
27
28 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl, Izembek
29 Refuge manager.
30
31 MR. LIPKA: Colt Lipka, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak/Cold Bay.
33
34 MR. EVANS: Tom Evans, Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, OSM.
36
37 MS. LaVINE: Robbin LaVine,
38 anthropologist, OSM.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
41 can we find out who -- oh, we also have -- go ahead.
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, Tom Doolittle,
44 deputy assistant regional director for OSM.
45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage,
47 council coordinator, OSM.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Also in the room
50

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1 we have Tina, our court recorder, and Antone ran to get
2 something, so he'll be back. So can maybe we have the
3 people that are on line.

4
5 MR. KOSO: I'm here, Della. Rick.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

8
9 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg in
10 Anchorage, regional subsistence coordinator.

11
12 MR. SVOBODA: Hi. This is Nate Svoboda
13 in Kodiak with Fish and Game

14
15 MR. WITTEVEEN: Mark Witteveen also in
16 Kodiak with Fish and Game.

17
18 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in
19 Anchorage.

20
21 MS. FOX: Lisa Fox in Kodiak with Fish
22 and Game.

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.
25 This is Division of Subsistence in Anchorage.

26
27 MR. LAMP: Good morning, Tom Lamp,
28 Sun'ag Tribe of Kodiak.

29
30 MS. SOMBRERAS: Good morning, Taylor
31 Sombreras (ph), the Aleut Corporation.

32
33 MR. WITTER: Good morning, this is Rob
34 Witter with the U.S. Geological Survey in Anchorage.

35
36 MR. LIND: Good morning. This is
37 Orville Lind with the Office of Subsistence Management.

38
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have
41 anybody available from the Kodiak Refuge at this point.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We do
46 have a couple more people that walked in the room.
47 Latisha from the Izembek Refuge, and?

48
49 MS. MODLA: Kelly Modla. Kelly Modla.

50

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1 US Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And Kelly Modla,
4 and that's from US Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 Okay. Again, everybody, welcome. And
7 I just heard another beep. Maybe can you identify
8 yourself.

9

10 MS. SPANGLER: This is Beth Spangler
11 with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Everyone,
14 again welcome. For the most part this morning we're
15 going to be doing reports. And with that, we will
16 start with tribal governments. But before I do that, I
17 just want to make note that if anybody would like to
18 testify or have anything to say, there are blue forms
19 at the back of the room. Feel free to fill them out
20 and turn them into me, and we welcome any comments any
21 time during the meeting.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair. Madame
24 Chair. If I may, I wanted to ask if we could add at
25 some point in the agenda Colton Lipka. He's one of the
26 proponents for the Maclees Lake FRMP project, and I
27 think this is a great opportunity since he's here in
28 the room, if he could speak about the proposal, and we
29 would have a chance to ask questions. If we could add
30 that somewhere on the agenda.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. We
35 can do that. Thank you.

36

37 All right. Moving on, we will start
38 with agency reports, item number 12 on the agenda. And
39 you will have 15 minutes for your report. Are there
40 any tribal governments on line that would like to make
41 a report at this time.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any Native
46 organizations.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
2 move on to U.S.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering. I think
9 I heard Tom Lance on earlier for Sun'aq. It might be
10 quite interesting for the Council to hear about the
11 work that they've been doing, and particularly their
12 new grant to look at the crayfish in Buskin Lake.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tom, are
15 you online and would you like to speak?

16
17 MR. LANCE: Thank you. Yeah, I was
18 going to give a short update on that, if you would
19 like that now or later.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If you can, we'd
22 appreciate it if you could do that now.

23
24 MR. LANCE: Okay. Yeah, we were one of
25 three tribes in Alaska to be fortunate to win a tribal
26 wildlife grant fro U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It
27 was for almost \$200,000 to continue the study of the
28 signal crayfish, which is an invasive crayfish. To
29 continue the study started by others, and we did a
30 little bit of work last year trying to characterize the
31 extent of the invas -- the species invasion in Buskin
32 Lake, which is, as many of you know, is our most
33 important subsistence water body here.

34
35 The work this time will include a more
36 robust design to determine a population density. It
37 will also include isotope analysis, looking at diet
38 study -- diet of the crayfish. And then lastly we'll
39 have a system of tracking them using radio tags, and
40 that will be seasonal work as well.

41
42 So we're pretty excited about it.
43 We've got many partners involved, and I want to thank
44 OSM and everybody else. Fish and Game, Fish and
45 Wildlife Service, Seagrant Alaska, and the Kodiak Soil
46 and Water Conservation District. They've all chimed in
47 as being supporters of this. And, of course, the Fish
48 and Wildlife Service staff have been very helpful in
49 some of the technical aspects of putting the project

50

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1 together and the study design and that sort of thing.
2 And the Coast Guard as well since it's their land.
3 They're the land manager, land owner of Buskin Lake
4 watershed.

5
6 So that in a nutshell is what will take
7 place over the next two and a half years.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does any Council
10 members have any comments or questions for Tom at this
11 time.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank you
16 for your report.

17
18 Are there any other Native
19 organizations.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Moving
24 on. Is there Staff available from the Kodiak Refuge
25 online at this time and ready to give your report.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Alaska Maritime
30 Refuge.

31
32 MR. WEBBER: Yes, good morning. This
33 is Mark Webber, deputy refuge manager, Alaska Maritime.
34 Am I on?

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we can
37 hear you, Mark. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. WEBBER: Oh, okay. Great. Good
40 morning, everybody. Sorry I didn't have any briefing
41 materials for you.

42
43 What I wanted to share today was that
44 we -- some of the activities of this year. We found it
45 was an excellent year of working with our partners and
46 communities in the Pribilof Islands and the Aleutians
47 centering around events that happened during World War
48 Two, because we're coming up on an important
49 anniversary for the Battle of Attu Island. The 75th

50

1 anniversary will be -- event will be happening next
2 year, and we're sort of already building up to that
3 point. We had the opportunity to have a number of
4 events already happening this year that I want to talk
5 about and a lot of you participated or know about these
6 already.

7
8 But a remembrance trip to Funter Bay on
9 the -- in Southeast, which was an internment camp for
10 people from the Pribilof Islands was made, and our
11 refuge manager, Steve Delahanty who regrets not being
12 able to be here with you today; he's on assignment in
13 Washington, D.C., and our deputy refuge -- our deputy
14 regional director, Karen Clark, attended that trip. I
15 don't know all the participants, but they enjoyed their
16 meetings with Demitri Selamonof (ph) on that trip, and
17 I think it was a very special event as I heard. I
18 wasn't there. However, everybody who participated to
19 have a chance to get back there to personally witness
20 the location and the site and remember the people who
21 suffered through their times there, the difficulty that
22 they experienced. So that was one of the first events
23 that this year happened in May.

24
25 There was an event on St. Paul Island
26 with our director of our entire program, Refuges -- or,
27 excuse me, our Fish and Wildlife Service, Jim Kurth,
28 along with our regional director, Greg Siekaniec and
29 our manager Steve Delahanty when a formal apology was
30 delivered to the people on St. Paul Island from our
31 agency for their -- things that happened during World
32 War Two, that internment process that followed. The
33 Fish and Wildlife Service at that time was part of --
34 at the Pribilof Islands before the war and during the
35 war period. So that happened in June. And also
36 following that was a visit by our ship to St. George,
37 where a plaque was delivered to Mr. Mergulief at the
38 island there to commemorate what happened, and to
39 remember what happened at that island as well, St.
40 George Island, during the same time.

41
42 And then this year, later this year
43 then, in August we made two trips using our ship the
44 Tekla out to Kiska and Attu islands, and we were very
45 pleased to have a chance to bring along community
46 members, and particularly on first trip family members
47 who survived -- or whose elders and parents and
48 relatives were part of the people who were taken
49 prisoner by the Japanese and removed from Attu Island.

50

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1 You know, it's kind of a chance for them to get back to
2 the village site on Attu, so we had quite a few
3 families represented. Unfortunately none of the
4 original survivors who were with us, could make the
5 trip, but family members had a great visit, a chance to
6 in some cases even meet some of -- each other, or have
7 had long separations from each other. So I think they
8 all enjoyed that.

9
10 And then following that trip, we made a
11 planning trip with additional community members and
12 media representatives with a second trip to Attu to
13 explore the island and discuss the war events, and
14 prepare for the -- some of the events we'd like to do
15 in general for the whole battle next year. So two
16 important outings to Attu Island.

17
18 And then also this year we continued to
19 have our very successful participation in culture and
20 science camps in the Pribilof Islands with Rural
21 Seabird Youth Network at Sand Point and at Unalaska.
22 And we were fortunate to have students, YCC youth come
23 out to us from St. George. Leah and Colby Lekanoff,
24 and Daniel Peters from Unalaska joined a student from
25 Homer to be our YCC youth leaders and teachers, and so
26 they participated in a variety of ways in the culture
27 and science camps this summer, so we had lots of visits
28 to our ship, the Tekla, when it called, and
29 participation in the camps at their location. So very
30 pleased about all that.

31
32 On the wildlife biology side, we
33 managed all of our -- getting all of our field camps
34 out this summer, the usual ones to Buldir Island, to
35 Iktak Island, and out to the Pribilofs, Cape Lisburne,
36 the Barren Islands. We did not attend camp at St.
37 Lazaria Island in Southeast near Sitka this year due to
38 a shortage of funding.

39
40 Some of you may have heard that there's
41 been over the last number of years quite a few
42 instances of seabirds dying, being found ashore at
43 various -- by community members and scientists working
44 all throughout the Aleutians and the Bering Sea areas,
45 varieties of species, varieties of events. All of
46 them that have been investigated, including the most
47 recent one with quite a few puffins dying, having been
48 attributed to starvation in those individual birds.
49 We're not sure of the driver for that. We do see ups

50

1 and downs in populations, but particularly the large
2 murre event of several years ago was concern about
3 various kinds of marine toxins for example being
4 responsible or involved. They have been pretty much
5 ruled out to this point with no evidence showing up
6 that it is toxins. And all the birds that have been
7 examined by veterinarians and pathologists, all the
8 findings have come back as starvation, so some kind of
9 interruption in the availability of food that they are
10 specialized to get and dive for seems to have happened
11 in pulses in different locations and different times
12 around our operating area for seabird monitoring. And
13 that's the best information we currently have on that
14 situation. I know that's been a question we've been
15 asked a number of times by different people in
16 different communities and other places around Alaska
17 about these seabird die-off events. They've certainly
18 made the news. They've been pretty well covered in the
19 media from time to time, because particularly with the
20 murr event, murrers were flying all over Alaska, way into
21 the Interior, showing up in strange places like
22 Fairbanks, and lakes and rivers way up in the Interior,
23 seemingly on search for -- desperate search for food in
24 the case of those birds several years ago.

25
26 Those are some of the highlights that I
27 wanted to bring up and mention for you. And I'm
28 certainly happy to answer any questions for the Alaska
29 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, if I can.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does
32 anybody have any questions.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

37
38 MR. WEBBER: Good morning, Pat.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Good morning, Mark.
41 I -- when I was with the Department, I made several
42 trips out in the Aleutians and also worked out at
43 Shemya in '63 and '65. And there was a couple of
44 things I'd like to ask you.

45
46 When you have your crew out at Kiska,
47 I've noticed in different publications the vessel that
48 is sunk right off of the main sandstone cliff in Kiska
49 Harbor, that the Japanese name is -- I've heard at

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1 least two and occasionally a third different Japanese
2 name for the boat. It would be very interesting to
3 have that identified for sure. And when I was there in
4 '82 things were in really halfway decent shape, so we
5 were able to check things out. And I noted that that
6 vessel was an English steamer, because the Japanese
7 name was superimposed on the stern. And I think that
8 connection would be an interesting one that I have
9 never seen discussed in any of the literature on Kiska.
10 And I also noted that a couple of the artillery pieces
11 on the main part of Kiska Island were not Japanese;
12 they were English. And I don't know, but my
13 speculation is that possibly they may have been seized
14 in Singapore, so that's a connection with Kiska that I
15 don't -- I've never really found in any of the
16 literature, and that would be something that would be I
17 think quite interesting to add into your whole program.

18
19 MR. WEBBER: Yeah, those are great
20 points. I am not really well versed in the history.
21 I can find out. There are people that are, and we also
22 work in partnership with the National Park Service on
23 some of the -- there's quite a bit of war material and
24 stuff on the bottom. I'm not sure what all is out
25 there, but vessels were sunk and -- during some of the
26 U.S. efforts to bomb the island prior to the retaking
27 of it. So I can find out certainly more about the
28 history of that vessel. I'm sure folks know about
29 that. I -- I agree with you, I'm fascinated as well.
30 At least I've been to both Kiska and Little Kiska and I
31 have seen some of the coastal artillery defense pieces
32 out there, and I did hear -- and I'll also try and
33 confirm this for you, that they are in fact English. A
34 number of the larger guns are English. The eight-inch
35 coastal defense guns. And I think they go way back. I
36 think they were actually purchased as I recall hearing
37 by Japan before the war from England. They might go
38 back into the late 1800s in some cases in terms of
39 their manufacture. But there are people who study
40 that. They have serial numbers and histories and that
41 is known.

42
43 There's a specialist whose name I'm
44 just blanking on from Australia who's -- his whole
45 study, specialty of study is Japanese artillery
46 basically from the war. And he did presentations in
47 Alaska some years ago when I first got here in about
48 five or six or seven years ago I believe. And we have
49 contact with him, and if you get me your contact, your
50

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1 email and such, I'll be happy to get you more material
2 on both the ship and the guns.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that would be really
5 splendid. Karen can give you that with my permission.
6 No problem, because I really would like to learn more
7 about that, and particularly that Kiska Island case
8 there would certainly deserve some good video footage
9 for folks, because you can just stand there on the hill
10 and see where the Japanese were loading that anti-
11 aircraft gun when they evacuated, and that's just so
12 striking, and the whole island and the -- anyway, but,
13 please, I would like to talk with you some more. I
14 think Karen even has my cell number, but I'd really
15 like to know what's happening there, because I was
16 working on a presentation on Attu, and a fellow that
17 was here with the Corps of Engineers during the war for
18 our local pioneers group.

19
20 And another connection for you folks
21 would be the Kodiak Military History Museum and Joe
22 Stevens, because there's some interesting artifacts and
23 they have a lot of connections and items and things
24 from out on the Aleutians from before it became, you
25 know, a national monument.

26
27 So anyway, great report.

28
29 MR. WEBBER: Great.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Thank you so much.

32
33 MR. WEBBER: Thank you. And thank you
34 for the suggestions. We have also put together what's
35 called kind of nowadays a story map of the war. It's
36 just gone live. I'll get this link sent to you so
37 everyone can check it out. It's got a lot of history
38 both about the war and about the impact to Aleut people
39 throughout the Aleutians from the war. So we're really
40 gearing up a lot to -- and rediscovering the same
41 history as you're talking about, and have many people
42 sort of digging in. We've got a number of seasonal
43 people helping us get ourselves ready to be -- there is
44 such a huge amount of history out there that
45 unfortunately mostly as biologists we don't spend
46 enough time with. And this has been a great reminder
47 for our Refuge about how much has happened through
48 history and with people as well as the wildlife out in
49 the area of this wildlife refuge. So I look forward to
50

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1 any inputs from you or any members about this history,
2 and we'll get you the story map and welcome your
3 comments about it and how we've started to try to cover
4 some of these pretty amazing and very complex events
5 that happened that kind of lead up to the war and
6 during the war itself is where our focus is now, just
7 because of the upcoming anniversary.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: And I'd really like to
10 commend you folks for your work in acknowledging what
11 happened to the Onagan people out in the Aleutians and
12 the Pribs, and through the years having met and talked
13 and listened to folks from Attu and from the other
14 villages of the impact of that would just -- when I
15 listened to the elders, it would bring tears to my
16 eyes, so I'll be quiet and -- but thank you for doing
17 what you do.

18
19 MR. WEBBER: Thank you, sir.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mark.
22 And just maybe a comment on the Funter Bay. I had a
23 niece that attended the activities there. She's a
24 student with Alaska -- UAA in Southeast. But she had
25 attended, and for her it was very emotional, because my
26 mother had -- actually she was six years old when they
27 were removed from St. Paul and on to Funter Bay. And
28 the stories that I've heard from my aunts and, you
29 know, it was really very traumatic. And what I've
30 heard from people that did attend from the Pribilofs
31 and other communities basically said that it was well
32 -- the ceremonies were well done and it was a very
33 emotional experience for them. And I saw a lot of the
34 documentation and the flyers that they had. So thank
35 you for that.

36
37 And I think does anybody else have any
38 other comments.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
43 you, Mark.

44
45 MR. WEBBER: Thank you for having us
46 participate.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have
49 anybody on line from the Kodiak Refuge.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. At
4 10:00 o'clock we were going to do the U.S.G.S. ANSEP.
5 He was going to be available then. So I guess what --
6 we can move on to -- oh, I'm sorry. Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
9 Chair.

10

11 MR. WITTER: Madame Chair.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: I believe Rob is on
14 the phone now, and he -- if you give me a couple
15 minutes to set up a PowerPoint, he might be available
16 to do that ANSEP presentation now if you wish. Thank
17 you.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Rob, are you
20 available?

21

22 MR. WITTER: Yes, I am.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
25 give you a few minutes.....

26

27 MR. WITTER: I am available. I'd be
28 happy to speak now.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Karen is
31 setting that up, and we'll let you know when we're
32 ready. Thank you.

33

34 I think while we're setting up there
35 were about four or five beeps after we started the
36 meeting. Maybe you can let us know who came on line.

37

38 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris Peterson
39 from Alaska Fish and Game in King Salmon.

40

41 MR. PYLE: Good morning. This is Bill
42 Pyle with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

43

44 MR. WEBBER: This is Mark Webber,
45 Alaska Maritime. I was a late arriver. I was one of
46 the beeps.

47

48 DR. REAM: Good morning. This is
49 Joshua Ream, anthropologist with the Office of

50

1 Subsistence Management.

2

3 MS. BRUMMER: This is Christine
4 Brummer, Pathways anthropologist with the Office of
5 Subsistence Management.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For those of you
8 who came on late, at this time we're setting up for the
9 U.S.G.S. ANSEP report. And -- or ANSEP report, yeah.
10 And then we'll follow that with the Kodiak Refuge
11 report.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I'm
16 ready for Rob to go ahead and begin his presentation.
17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. WITTER: Good morning. I'm ready
20 when you are.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rob.

23

24 MR. WITTER: Okay. Thank you. Thank
25 you for the opportunity to address the Council this
26 morning. I have a series of slides and Karen's agreed
27 to advance them as I speak. And can everyone hear me
28 okay?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we can hear
31 you fine. Go ahead.

32

33 MR. WITTER: Okay. My name is Rob
34 Witter. I'm an earthquake and tsunami geologist with
35 the U.S. Geological Survey in Anchorage. And my
36 collaborators listed on the first slide are leaders in
37 earth science education and STEM. And they're from the
38 Anchorage School District, Central Washington
39 University, the University of Portland, and Alaska
40 Native Science and Engineering Program, STEM. Beth
41 Spangler actually on the call right now.

42

43 So what I'd like to share with you
44 today is a new geohazards education program funded by
45 the National Science Foundation that we call EarthScope
46 ANGLE. And ANGLE stands for Alaska Native Geoscience
47 Learning Experience.

48

49 Okay.

50

1 Please go to the next slide.

2
3 So the next slide's a map of the North
4 Pacific, and it shows the maximum sea surface
5 amplitudes predicted for a giant tsunami. This tsunami
6 would be something generated by a magnitude greater
7 than 9 earthquake in the Aleutians. Now, as many of
8 you know, along Alaska's southern coast, the collision
9 of the Pacific and North American plates generates
10 earthquakes and tsunamis that threaten the safety,
11 security, and economic well-being of Alaska as well as
12 communities around the Pacific Rim. U.S.G.S. research
13 that I lead is aimed at finding clues about the
14 magnitudes and the sizes of these past earthquakes, the
15 heights of tsunamis that they generated and how often
16 they occur.

17
18 Now recently there's been concern about
19 the impacts of large tsunamis generated in this part of
20 Alaska in L.A. and Hawaii in particular. And the
21 impacts to these regions, and Hawaii, like is shown in
22 the Hawaii Tribune Herald article, is that they could
23 be devastating, but, however, so could the impacts to
24 rural communities in Alaska, the fishing fleet, and the
25 subsistence resources that you all depend on. And we
26 want to help Alaskans build resilience to these hazards
27 that include earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic
28 eruptions.

29
30 Okay. Next slide.

31
32 The reason I'm sharing this project
33 with you is to seek the input of the Council. We would
34 like your help to develop the most effective
35 geohazards education program for Native Alaskan
36 students, their teachers, and other educators across
37 the state. And the primary aim of EarthScope ANGLE is
38 to increase Alaskan resilience to geohazards through
39 education and by building an action-oriented learning
40 community.

41
42 So now to slide 4.

43
44 This slide addresses the question what
45 is EarthScope? EarthScope is a National Science
46 Foundation facility, and it's designed to explore the
47 structure and the evolution of the North American
48 continent, and to study plate tectonic processes that
49 cause hazardous earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic

50

1 eruptions. So this facility of EarthScope has three
2 main observatories.

3
4 Go to the next slide, which is slide 5.

5
6 So the three observatories include the
7 transportable U.S. array, the plate boundary
8 observatory, and the San Andreas Fault observatory at
9 depth. And I'll just briefly explain these.

10
11 The U.S. array is a transportable
12 network or grid of seismometers. And this was
13 initially deployed along the west coast of the Lower 48
14 in 2004 and 2005. And since then it has marched across
15 the Lower 48 as movable or a transportable grid. And
16 now it's in Alaska. The deployment of new EarthScope
17 seismic stations in Alaska began in 2014 and now our
18 network includes around 275 stations. In Alaska the
19 array consists of a grid, it's kind of fuzzy in that
20 lower left of the diagram here, but the grid in Alaska
21 consists of stations spaced about 85 kilometers apart
22 covering most of the state and parts of neighboring
23 Canada.

24
25 Now, the plate boundary observatory,
26 that's in the lower left of the slide here, this is an
27 observatory that consists -- it uses satellites to
28 measure 3-D motions of the surface of the earth caused
29 by plate tectonic motions, volcanoes, and changes in
30 hydrology. The PBO network includes more than 1200
31 continuous GPS instruments. Just like a hand-held
32 instrument, but these can -- are much more accurate and
33 very precise. An example of what they look like is in
34 the photos that passed -- it kind of looks like a
35 gumdrop with toothpicks for legs. Okay. So in near
36 real time these instruments can inform scientists about
37 potential hazards related to earthquakes, tsunamis, and
38 on-going volcanic eruptions.

39
40 Finally, the San Andreas fault
41 observatory at depth was a 3.1 kilometer deep borehole,
42 and it was drilled through the San Andreas fault in
43 California halfway between San Francisco and L.A. And
44 this drill hole offered the first opportunity for
45 scientists to study the rock and fluids in an active
46 fault zone in the area where earthquakes nucleate.

47
48 Next slide.

49
50

1 So EarthScope's the largest geophysics
2 initiative ever in the U.S., and its deployment will
3 span more than 15 years, and now it's in Alaska, so we
4 want to take advantage of that opportunity to educate
5 the public, especially people who have a lot of risk.
6 Another way to think about EarthScope is that it's like
7 aiming the Hubble telescope into the earth. Our
8 project, ANGLE, aims to translate EarthScope science
9 into educational lessons and resources to help Alaskan
10 increase resilience to these hazards that we are faced
11 with.

12
13 So the goals of ANGLE are to synthesize
14 EarthScope educational resources and place them in
15 Alaskan contexts. We want to increase participant
16 knowledge of Alaskan geohazards and EarthScope, the
17 program, with particular emphasis on learning
18 geoscience, understanding the risks, and taking action
19 to make our communities more resilient, and also to
20 develop an Alaska geohazards learning community, which
21 is really a network of educators and students and
22 stakeholders so that we become more prepared and
23 increase community resilience again.

24
25 Okay. Karen, next slide. We should be
26 on slide 8 now.

27
28 And this is to talk about experience
29 teaching Native students. We're collaborating with the
30 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program who is a
31 lead investigator on this project, and they have great
32 experience teaching Native students. We're going to
33 leverage their middle school academy program. ANSEP's
34 middle school academy is a two-week experience designed
35 to promote science, technology, engineering and math
36 education for careers. And the middle school academy's
37 directed towards Native Alaskan students. So this
38 collaboration uses EarthScope science to engage
39 students in a variety of hands-on activities at the
40 middle school academy that includes testing bridges and
41 other structures on an earthquake simulation table like
42 the photograph on the lower right, and designing
43 tsunami evacuation buildings, among other activities.

44
45 Okay. Next slide.

46
47 We're working on a proven approach to
48 translating earth science to middle schools and middle
49 school students. ANGLE is built on a proven approach
50

1 developed during other successful EarthScope education
2 projects in the west coast of the Lower 48. And, for
3 example, this website shown on this slide highlights --
4 or is a portal to the CEETEP project. The CEETEP
5 project stands for Cascadia EarthScope Earthquake and
6 Tsunami Education Program. And this is a successful
7 education program in the Pacific Northwest which we
8 gained from by their experience and the educational
9 resources that were developed for the geohazards in
10 the Pacific Northwest that are very similar to Alaska.
11 Like Alaska, the Pacific Northwest has the Cascadia
12 subduction zone and along the Aleutians and Kodiak we
13 have the Aleutian Alaska subduction zone.

14
15 CEETEP, the program, brought together
16 teachers, park museum interpreters, and emergency
17 managers in professional development workshop and
18 helped forge community collaborations between different
19 types of educators. There's a rich body of teaching
20 resources that's already available that we plan to
21 adapt for the Alaska setting. And the experiences
22 gained by CEETEP and these other programs in the Lower
23 48 include working with emergency managers and teachers
24 in the Makah, Quileute, and Quinault Nations in
25 Washington. ANGLE aims to take the lessons learned
26 from these programs and develop an effective
27 educational program designed for Alaska students and
28 educators.

29
30 Okay. Next slide.

31
32 This talks about our partners. We have
33 many partners. They're very supportive. And this
34 includes the Alaska Department of Homeland Security and
35 Emergency Management, the Alaska Earthquake Center in
36 Fairbanks at UAF, the Alaska Native Tribal Health
37 Consortium, and many others that are listed here,
38 including state, federal agencies and private
39 institutions.

40
41 We recognize there will be many
42 challenges, including geographic and cultural ones.
43 And this is why ANGLE hinges on a community-based
44 learning network that links the Anchorage School
45 District, the smaller schools around the state as well
46 as informal educators in museums and other institutions
47 that need to know geohazards as well as emergency
48 managers. We also have specifically developed
49 collaborations and partnerships with programs that
50

1 support Native Alaskans like the ANSEP program, the
2 ANTHC, and we are seeking input and feedback from you,
3 the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council.

4

5 Next slide. Okay.

6

7 We're almost to the end here, but this
8 really talks about the guts of what we propose to do.
9 In this conceptual diagram it illustrates how ANGLE
10 will work, okay? So if you start on the left, the
11 whole program starts with partners and themes that bind
12 us together. The themes include EarthScope science,
13 community resilience, and Native knowledge. Our
14 partners guided by these binding themes will help us
15 develop educational workshops for teachers, park and
16 museum educators, and emergency managers. And these
17 workshops will translate EarthScope scientific
18 discovery into practical knowledge that will build
19 resilience to geohazards.

20

21 So the bubble, the middle bubble in
22 this diagram represents the educator workshops. And
23 what we'd like to do is train teachers in these
24 workshops that will then share lessons and educational
25 materials with students at the ANSEP middle school
26 academy, which is the other white bubble.

27

28 The ultimate goal is to use this to
29 bring together residents from across the state and
30 visitors to form a statewide geohazards learning
31 community to facilitate great resilience in Alaska.

32

33 Okay. Next slide.

34

35 This is the time line. The project
36 spans three years from 2017 to 2020. Most of the first
37 year involves planning and development, and most
38 important is the rural stakeholder meeting which we
39 hope will be in Kodiak in February. And this is where
40 we want to get input and feedback from you to develop
41 effective educational resources. The program includes
42 three educator workshops held each year in Anchorage,
43 and two summers of teaching at ANSEP middle school
44 academy, teaching their students with teachers trained
45 in the workshop. The program also will involve ongoing
46 assessments, analyses, evaluations to measure attitude
47 and preparedness, and finally products will include
48 reports and a publication at the end.

49

50

1 All right. So just to sum it up here,
2 EarthScope ANGLE is designed to capitalize on the
3 presence of EarthScope instrumentation across Alaska.
4 And this is over 200 seismic instruments and a network
5 of GPS instruments that spans the west coast of the
6 U.S. And it's a great opportunity to better understand
7 how plate tectonics is driving the earthquake, tsunami
8 and volcano hazards in our state. The primary aim is
9 to increase Alaskan resilience to these geohazards
10 through education and building an action-oriented
11 learning community.

12
13 So we would like to invite your
14 participation. First, the -- so go to the next slide.
15 This is -- I've got just two more slides here. We seek
16 your input to help us build the best possible
17 geohazards education program for your children and
18 their teachers. We would like to announce the
19 opportunity for students from rural communities in
20 Alaska to participate in ANSEP middle school academies,
21 and we invite you to play an advisory role by
22 participating in the ANGLE stakeholder meeting which we
23 think may occur around or after February 22nd following
24 your next 2018 winter RAC meeting. I understand that's
25 something that may be decided in this meeting today.

26
27 So the purpose for the stakeholder
28 meeting would be to get your input and feedback on
29 questions like those shown in the next slide, and this
30 is my final slide. We seek your feedback on questions
31 like how are residents already building resilience to
32 geohazards in their community? What oral histories
33 about geohazards you have that you can share with us?
34 Are there barriers that might complicate sharing
35 science with rural communities? And, finally, how can
36 we translate science most effectively to help
37 communities -- help your communities strengthen their
38 resilience to geohazards?

39
40 Thanks for the opportunity to address
41 the council, and I'm happy to answer questions, but I'm
42 hoping this will initiate a longer-term discussion and
43 dialogue between us and all the stakeholders out in the
44 Kodiak/Aleutians area.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rob.
49 Does any Council members have any comments for Rob at
50

1 this time.

2

3

Melissa.

4

5

6

MS. BERNS: Hi, Rob. Melissa Berns
from Old Harbor. Thank you for your presentation.

7

8

9

10

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17

I know that we have one of the ENAFCO
sites on our Native corporation land, and it was always
-- you know, we know it's up there, but we don't what
it's doing. So this is great information and something
what would be wonderful to share with our community.
And I know that several of our youth go through the
ANSEP program, and it's really helped them to grow, and
a lot of them are very much interested in science and
engineering because of their involvement with that
program.

18

19

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30

Our tribe currently has a FEMA grant,
and it's looking at documenting oral history of the --
looking at the 1964 earthquake and tsunami, and then
also looking at historically events that had happened
predocumentation, so that we can better prepare
ourselves for an event in the future. And so that's
something that the tribe is actively working on right
now. And if you don't mind, I'm going to share your
information with Jim Ceduna (ph) who is actually
managing that grant for our tribe, because this is
information that I know that he would be very
interested in.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. WITTER: Melissa, that's great
news. And, yes, please do share this far and wide.
That's the purpose for addressing the Council today.
We -- this is mainly marketing for what we hope is the
initiation of building this network of education across
the state.

38

39

40

41

42

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45

46

And, you know, you brought up an
important point. The reason why we wanted to focus on
the Aleutians and Kodiak is that because in some of
these villages the EarthScope instruments are deployed
very near by. And this gives us a great opportunity to
take advantage of that co-location of people and risk
and hazards and the science that we use to understand
it better.

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

1 MR. WITTER: And can the Council
2 comment on the meeting, our proposal to have a meeting
3 or a workshop in Kodiak after the next RAC?
4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we were
6 looking at that, and we will definitely take that into
7 consideration. We have another Council member that
8 would like to speak.
9

10 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca Skinner.
11 In addition to being on the RAC, I'm on the Kodiak
12 Borough Assembly. And one of the things that we
13 covered at one of our meetings within the last couple
14 of months was emergency preparedness. So letting
15 community members know what, in this case, the
16 municipality, the borough, and the City of Kodiak would
17 be able to provide in an emergency situation. So if
18 there were another earthquake or tsunami. And what
19 individuals in the community should really expect to
20 provide for themselves or take care of themselves.
21

22 And I did like the way your
23 presentation tied the science part to, okay, we have
24 the science, but what do you do with it and how does it
25 trickle down to benefit actual people in the community.
26 So I think that I see a lot of opportunity here in, you
27 know, increasing the awareness of science, the
28 awareness of ANSEP, the importance of it, and data
29 information that can come through science. But then
30 taking it the next step to really kind of teach the
31 kids, well, how does this relate to every day life and
32 how can it be beneficial. I mean, I think that this --
33 when you talk about community resilience, to me that
34 means if something -- if there is an earthquake or a
35 tsunamis in a community, what do we need to do? What
36 do we need to have in place to be ready to move forward
37 from that, you know, the day of, the day after? What
38 kinds of -- you know, we need to have fresh water
39 available, we need to understand where we're going to
40 get food. If we don't have power, what's the plan for
41 that. So I do think there's a lot of opportunity for
42 outreach in that area, and to -- I mean, I would expand
43 the network you're looking at to include
44 municipalities, because in Kodiak the city and the
45 borough, for example, do play a key role in emergency
46 response.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WITTER: Thank you for that
4 excellent comment. What was your name again?

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner.

7

8 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Rebecca.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat or Rick, do
11 you have any comments.

12

13 MR. KOSO: No, I don't have a thing.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think this was a
20 great program. Becky is certainly going to be your
21 contact to move this in a direction to the
22 municipalities. If you might be able to send me, and
23 again check with Karen, by email, I could get you some
24 other good contacts that would help. And I'd be
25 willing to go and do an early pitch to the Kodiak
26 School Board and a couple other connections for you is
27 the Kodiak Historical Society. I was on their board
28 for more than 20 years. And they have a collection of
29 oral histories and things. They have an ongoing oral
30 history program. And also one incredible resource we
31 have in Kodiak is a retired geomorph (ph) professor,
32 Dr. Carver, and he was one of the first people to
33 define major tsunami events on the west coast, and he's
34 retired in Kodiak, and getting to the end of the line,
35 but he's a spunky guy with a tremendous amount of
36 knowledge and has done work out in the Aleutians as
37 well. And so if you could spot me something electronic
38 in a summary, why, I would boost those things to those
39 three groups.

40

41 MR. WITTER: Thank you very much.

42

43 Karen, will you please give me the
44 gentleman's contact information?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
47 maybe, Karen, just to add to that, if you can get this
48 PowerPoint presentation to Karen, and maybe she can
49 forward that to all the Council members. And I think

50

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1 that -- this is Della. And just a question. Was the
2 boat that was this summer doing the work -- was a boat
3 out this summer doing some work I know around King Cove
4 and Sand Point on the ocean -- looking at the ocean
5 floor? Is that part of this?

6
7 MR. WITTER: Not exactly. I'm sure
8 there was a boat out there, but it's not something that
9 was -- that we're directly involved with. However,
10 there's a huge push in new geoscience in Alaska that
11 even goes beyond EarthScope. And over the last few
12 years they've been installing seismometers across the
13 state, every 85 kilometers in spacing. They've
14 established new GPS instruments like the one Melissa
15 described in her community. And then offshore there's
16 a new program that's just been approved. I'm not sure
17 it's been funded yet, but they plan to put seismometer
18 and pressure sensors across the sea floor to date --
19 really scientists have been completely blind offshore.
20 We really don't know how the earth moves, how the
21 seafloor moves between earthquakes in Alaska. But I
22 suspect, yes, something must be going on in preparation
23 for the deployment of some offshore instrumentation.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
26 you. And I very much appreciate your report, and I
27 think any way we can be involved in helping you with
28 contacts, let us know. And if Karen gets that
29 PowerPoint to us, and if you have any questions or
30 would like any more resources, send that to us as part
31 of your PowerPoint, and we can definitely get that to
32 you.

33
34 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Della.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
37 you.

38
39 At this time I guess we will move to
40 Kodiak Refuge.

41
42 MR. PYLE: Good morning. This is Bill
43 Pyle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kodiak
44 National Wildlife Refuge. I serve as the subsistence
45 wildlife -- or the supervisor of wildlife biologists,
46 although subsistence overview is certainly one of
47 my.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Bill, can you
50

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1 move closer to the microphone or phone.

2

3 MR. PYLE: Sure can. Is this any
4 better?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. And I've
7 been asked to tell you to speak slow.

8

9 MR. PYLE: Okay. Can do. I will be
10 covering the report submitted to the Council by Kodiak
11 Refuge. And the first topic I'll be doing is
12 sequentially starting on the first page, talking about
13 fisheries.

14

15 Reports we received indicated that it
16 was a good year for customary and traditional salmon
17 fishing. The numbers are promising a good return of
18 salmon in many areas. For example, the (indiscernible
19 -- beep on phone) area. One portion will be Karluk,
20 Ayakulik (ph) River as well as in the Olga Bay
21 vicinity. Particularly notable was the high return of
22 salmon of early run sockeye salmon to the upper station
23 which was the highest in 10 years. And, by the way,
24 the standards (ph) that I mention on salmon numbers is
25 provided by the Department of Fish and Game. So the
26 upper station run was certainly quite exceptional this
27 year. That's good news. And then in the northern area
28 returns were also strong for sockeye salmon. And so
29 that provided the basis for subsistence use for the
30 Alitnik and Buskin stock. And reports we've received
31 recently indicate that it should continue to some
32 extent for Karluk, we're continuing to harvest late on
33 sockeye, and those in the vicinity of Kodiak are
34 harvesting coho salmon.

35

36 The one kind of dim spot would be
37 regarding Chinook salmon, and neither the larger stock
38 in the Karluk, in the Ayakulik met their lower
39 escapement goal. Close, but not quite. And that's
40 been more or less the trend for the, you know, recent
41 past.

42

43 Moving on to the salmon monitoring
44 that's performed by the Refuge, we have continued for a
45 third year to monitor sockeye salmon escapement in
46 Akulura Creek, and essentially using the same methods
47 we've applied for the last few years. And so we did
48 collect and it's about to end for 2017, and then I
49 believe over the last two years we have enumerated,

50

1 estimated 30 to -- 31 to 33,000 sockeye salmon with a
2 confidence interval of about 7 to 8,000. And we intend
3 to continue that project in the foreseeable future to
4 give us a handle on the variation in returns that serve
5 as the basis for discussing of restoration.

6
7 Moving from fisheries to wildlife,
8 regarding brown bear, in collaboration with the
9 Department of Fish and Game we annually survey brown
10 bear in late May to monitor trends in population sizes
11 over the Kodiak Island. In terms of the recent warm
12 years, because we were unable to complete the survey,
13 we did not have suitable conditions. However, int 2017
14 we pulled it off. And we conducted the survey in a 122
15 square mile area down in southwest Kodiak Island, and
16 within that area we counted 50 bears which equates to a
17 density of about 190 bears per 1,000 kilometers square.
18 And so this area is a very important area for brown
19 bear, and would serve as a baseline. We don't have any
20 trend information for this area, but with that
21 estimated kind of at the low end of average for the --
22 with primary areas, regional areas that we count. So
23 we expect to follow up in that area in the future.

24
25 We completed our air stream surveys
26 this summer and we presented the councils the next
27 report.

28
29 Regarding research, a technical report
30 entitled streamalogical (ph) synchronization, which in
31 rough terms it's interactions between Kodiak brown
32 bears and salmon, was published in the Proceedings of
33 National Academy of Sciences in late August. The
34 Refuge sponsored that research. It was conducted in
35 partnership with the University of Montana and other
36 organizations.

37
38 And then we also had some ongoing
39 locally based research. In April we concluded a two-
40 year pilot study of methods that could be applied to
41 monitor the berry supply important to brown bears. We
42 focused on four berry species here. They are common
43 and widely distributed, and of those there were two
44 that we really have, salmonberry and elderberry. And
45 based on the feedback that we received from folks that
46 we consulted with on the outcome of the study, we put
47 out a report and a report in April, we decided to
48 immediately implement the methods and the operational
49 monitoring context. And the preliminary reports of
50

1 2017 monitoring indicated a low supply of elderberries,
2 salmonberries, and blueberries. Those were one of
3 their top choice then. And I might mention that the
4 bulk of our work in my discussions pertains to Kodiak
5 Island ranging from Red Lake, Pilot Lake, Uganik Lake,
6 and then the Kodiak road system. Apparent cultural
7 factors of salmonberry and blueberry patches included
8 the lower average temperatures between December and
9 March coupled with normal snow cover. In elderberries
10 the primary current factor is there are no sizable
11 population of Sitka blacktail deer which could act at
12 interior and mountains and due to the minimal snow
13 pack.

14
15 Different topic. Community bear
16 dedication on August 19th, 2017. The Refuge hosted a
17 community celebration and unveiling ceremonies of a new
18 brown statue. The statue is there on the east side of
19 the Refuge visitor certain in front of the ferry
20 terminal. And typical for residents the Kodiak brown
21 bear represents the work history of human connections
22 to wildlife. And for the past few years a community
23 team led by the Kodiak Brown Bear Club has worked to
24 bring the symbol to downtown Kodiak at the terminal
25 public sign and number 1 icon. Included is -- this is
26 several projects, reflected the spirit of collaboration
27 for conservation management of bears and their habitat,
28 and continues the legacy of much loved bear statues
29 that honors Charles Matson, the old bear guide and
30 champion of the Emerald Isle.

31
32 As mentioned by in the Council member
33 reports consistent of what we received through reports
34 from agency biologists, local residents and hunting
35 guides regarding significant over-winter deer mortality
36 observed in western and northern Kodiak Island, and
37 which likely will have consequences in terms of reduced
38 availability of deer for hunters in this region in
39 2017.

40
41 Regarding mountain goat, the Department
42 and Refuge collaborated on monitoring, and so we were
43 able to get most of the island surveyed this year. The
44 Refuge passed that information on to the Department.
45 The Refuge focused on the south end, and Goat
46 Management Unit 480. We counted 1950 goats, perhaps 90
47 percent of the goats within that large management unit.
48 The Department will make results available his fall.
49 And there's one thing to be included in discussions of

50

1 goats on including the Kodiak Advisory Council, because
2 there's -- it's likely that there are some proposals
3 that will be submitted for consideration of regulation
4 change to the Board of Game. And so it's likely that
5 the -- it's probable that the advisory council will
6 convene a subcommittee to review and discuss and
7 potentially take action on proposals, so that is of
8 note.

9
10 Regarding migratory birds, seabird
11 colonies surveys were conducted by our Staff this year
12 for the first time since 2008 to 2010. It's a two-year
13 project, this year focused on Kodiak Island. Next year
14 will be Afognak Island. 150 of 180 pounds of iglets
15 (ph), a total of 121,000 birds was counted, and that
16 was back in June. When they met in August 75 regions
17 is to check for seaweed. And we'll present the results
18 in more detail to the Council this winter, but in
19 general as far productivity goes, it's -- it was
20 complete (ph) this year pretty much across the board
21 for Kodiak were some of the surface nester versus, you
22 know, gulls versus the burrowers such as puffins. And
23 that was noted across most of the survey areas. So
24 this is a valuable record. We conduct these surveys
25 periodically and so were two other surveys, and it's
26 important to keep track of these colonies. In part
27 they do provide some important customary and
28 traditional use for egg gathering in the spring.

29
30 We conducted some research on the
31 Aleutian and arctic tern, and this is an ongoing
32 Department project. With respect to the Refuge, there
33 is seven flights. (Indiscernible) were resident, only
34 eight locations were confirmed for nesting. And so
35 it's a special (ph) of tern species have to do with the
36 fact that in particular (indiscernible) been
37 experiencing declines with populations concern
38 associated with that, and in the Aleutian tern where
39 they observed the information.

40
41 Regarding migratory bird subsistence
42 levels, we often do play the role in the ongoing
43 discussion regarding a change in harvest regulation,
44 pertaining to emperor geese as well as preparation of
45 outreach materials in cooperation with Sun'aq tribe and
46 other information that's posted on our website.

47
48 And I'd also note that our law
49 enforcement staff has done a total of 252 hours patrol.
50

1 We need them in the spring. No hunters were
2 encountered. There was three agents, so that accounts
3 for the large number of hours. No hunters were
4 encountered; however, we did receive a report of two
5 hunters that went out and getting to go and were
6 unsuccessful.

7
8 So on other news, the Refuge received a
9 small grant to support the Afognak, Umiak and
10 Ontiokchik (ph) camps for a second year, some fuel for
11 camp travel, of course, camp supplies and equipment.

12
13 And in conclusion we want to recruit a
14 locally-based refuge information technician or a
15 subsistence biologist this fall. We've continued our
16 outreach efforts, and any one more than welcome.
17 Candidates please contact Refuge Manager Mike Brady. I
18 might mention that in the history of federal
19 subsistence at Kodiak Refuge as far as Refuge staffing,
20 we started with a subsistence biologist with the
21 inception of the subsistence program back in the early
22 90s, and then we added an RIT back in 2001 when that
23 program -- well, when our RITs became an integral
24 component of the program. And the subsistence
25 biologist originally was performing the functions of
26 outreach and I know there are some of the Council
27 members know that the long-time person in that role,
28 Robert Soval (ph), did one capable job, so we're
29 looking around and we're checking things out, and hope
30 to move on that, one of those positions here this fall.

31
32 Thank you very much, and I'd be glad to
33 take any questions.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does
36 any Council members have any questions.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, the ultimate report.
43 I really think that the Refuge has done a lot in the
44 recent years on their outreach and working with tribes
45 and with the community and working with the Fish and
46 Game A.C., and then the Fish and Game's A.C. study
47 groups on deer and goats, and folks are doing a pretty
48 jolly great program in outreach.

49
50

1 I would note that on the RIT and
2 subsistence biologist that we used to have both, and on
3 previous communications from our Council to the Federal
4 Board we've commented on the need to have that
5 subsistence biologist back and the RIT, and I think
6 I'll suggest when we do our letter to the Board that
7 those two topics be included in our things of interest.

8
9 I think your bear berry research, it
10 really could track Alacandra's (ph) work back in the
11 70s. Sarah pointed out that berries were as important
12 or more important sometimes than the salmon returns.
13 And so I think that's commendable. I would like to ask
14 you to speculate, because since I first hit Kodiak in
15 '63 I've watched cubs, the bears and probably the bear
16 population my gut estimate has probably increased three
17 times, so gradually moving from having one cub per sow
18 to two and then recently three, and all of that in my
19 mind tracks along with the warming winter temperatures
20 with the exception of last winter, and also, you know,
21 the increase in berry production. And so I hope you're
22 going to keep an eye on things there, because I'm kind
23 of worried about this fall bear and human interactions
24 particularly because of the loss of the berries. And
25 I'm also a bit concerned on the potential survival on
26 the cubs from this year, because the mom's fattening up
27 before they go in the den. That may well be a big part
28 of it.

29
30 So anyway, with those points of caution
31 and also a commendation for your work. I know myself
32 I'd really like to see a good RIT back with experience
33 at Kodiak, and also get your position back that your
34 headquarters transferred out up to Anchorage. I'd like
35 to see you folks get back and full staffed again. So
36 keep up the good work.

37
38 MR. PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Holmes. And
39 one comment regarding what you said about expectation
40 about some potential implications of the berry crop
41 failure on bear productivity, that's consistent with
42 our expectation. It's a pattern that we've seen
43 before, and hopefully with this type of annual
44 monitoring where both berry supply and the bear cub
45 activity we're able to actually connect the dots more
46 effectively. And this is the kind of year that in fact
47 it is our expectation that by the time we get out and
48 look at the initial survival next summer when we're
49 doing our bear stream surveys that, you know, we're

50

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1 detecting fewer bears. And no big deal if it's just
2 one year, other than the implications for as you
3 mentioned bear/human safety here particularly this
4 fall. And in terms of the bear population, one year --
5 one big -- you know, if you had multiple years, that
6 becomes a concern. Typically it's just been a one-year
7 issue.

8
9 In any case, other questions.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
12 questions from the Council.

13
14 Coral.

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: I don't have a question,
17 but I do have a comment. In here -- and I couldn't
18 hear well, so I don't know if he talked about the
19 migratory bird and culture workshop, so we're pairing
20 with the Refuge, and I'm going to be the artist. And
21 I'm working with the Refuge to do some projects with
22 the public, and then we're going to two villages around
23 the island. And the theme is kind of -- the idea of
24 project is to talk about the importance of migratory
25 birds and the Alutiiq culture with an emphasis on
26 conservation, and then they also want to increase the
27 entrance for the migratory bird calendar. So we have a
28 project we're working on. We're going to do a general
29 project for the public, and then I'm going to do a
30 smaller project with older middle school and high
31 school kids where we'll look at imagery and bird part
32 uses in Alutiiq cultural I guess what we call art, but
33 it's just usage of parts for food and art or objects.
34 And then we are going to make paddles, traditional
35 Alutiiq paddles. And after all the exploration of
36 bird, they will put their own imagery of birds on their
37 paddles. So I'm very excited about that. I think it's
38 -- usually we're sort of -- you know, the cultural
39 part's on this side, and then hunting is on the other
40 side, and so it's going to be exciting to sort of merge
41 that all together as, you know, we talk about how birds
42 are important to everyone.

43
44 MR. PYLE: Thank you for the comment,
45 Ms. Chernoff.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
48 comments.

49
50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank you
4 very much.

5

6 I think what we may want to do at this
7 point is we have -- we'd be moving to the ADF&G portion
8 of this, and I'm not sure if anybody would respond, go
9 ahead and take a 10-minute break at this point, and
10 then we'll get set up. Izembek. What I'd like to do
11 is go ahead and do ADF&G Buskin River, and then we have
12 Colton. We asked that be added to agenda. And then if
13 we can do Izembek Refuge and then ADF&G for the
14 Aleutian area after that would tie into the request I
15 think that we have with Unit 10 on Unimak.

16

17 If that's okay with everybody, we will
18 take 10-minute break.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody.
25 The next item on the agenda I believe is Buskin River.

26

27 MR. WITTEVEEN: This is Mark Witteveen
28 on the line. I'm the assistant area management
29 biologist for sport fish in the Kodiak area. I'm also
30 the principle investigator of the Buskin Sockeye Stock
31 Assessment Project. Are you picking me up okay?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We hear you
34 fine. Go ahead. We're all set. Thank you.

35

36 MR. WITTEVEEN: Okay. I just submitted
37 a couple slides here. You also should have the updated
38 report. With that I will just hit kind of the broad
39 strokes of the 2017 season. You should be looking at
40 slide number 1, which is a bar graph and the dark
41 vertical bars are the sockeye escapement through the
42 Buskin River Weir across 2012 through 2017. These
43 numbers reflect through July 31st, although that
44 represents most of the escapement.

45

46 The upper horizontal lines is the
47 recent five-year average. As you can see, in 2017 we
48 passed about 7,200 fish, which is a little bit below
49 average, but well within our escapement goal range,

50

1 which are the next two dotted lines, represent the
2 escapement goal range.

3
4 The smaller lighter-colored bars are
5 Lake Louise escapement and with the dotted lines in
6 that area being very average. This year escapement
7 through Lake Louise Weir was fairly low at 70 fish
8 through July 31st, although we passed another 71 since
9 then. Still below average, but there's no goal for that
10 system so we don't really have a good handle on what's
11 normal. We're still learning about that system.

12
13 Overall sockeye returns to Buskin were
14 strong. The subsistence fishery area was liberalized.
15 We opened up to the mouth at the beginning of June.

16
17 Karen, if you can advance the next
18 slide, please. This slide shows the daily escapement
19 and the progression of the percentage of the run. As
20 you can see, it's pretty heavily loaded to the early
21 side of things. We got a lot of fish early, like most
22 of them in May.

23
24 Karen, could you go to the next slide,
25 please. Lake Louise daily escapement. Lake Louis is a
26 really small run and the escapement is generally
27 correlated with rain events to get a little extra water
28 in the system and that pushes fish up.

29
30 Next slide, please. This slide is
31 something I just prepared. It's not in the report, but
32 it shows average run timing in blue. The smoother
33 curve below in blue is average run timing. And then
34 this year is in red, the top line. So you can see the
35 timing this year was about a week early and that kind
36 of affected how we did our sampling.

37
38 There weren't very many available fish
39 later in the season. All the harvest was kind of on
40 the front end. But overall a good strong year and fish
41 were healthy and subsistence harvests were reported to
42 be pretty good. I think a lot of people got fish out
43 of the Buskin this year.

44
45 Next slide, please. I just wanted to
46 touch a little bit on our intern program that we're
47 continuing. This picture is a photo of our interns
48 this year. We hire two high school interns each year
49 and we have a really good success rate as to their
50

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1 professional development. I believe we've hired 20 of
2 26 interns back to be permanent seasonal employees.

3
4 At the urging of the Council we also
5 started working with some other organizations this
6 year. The person in the back is Mandy Cox. She was a
7 Native intern that we worked with from the Sun'aq Tribe
8 in Kodiak here and she had a really good experience.
9 She was a really good employee and we're hoping that we
10 can hire her back someday as a permanent employee as
11 well.

12
13 Last slide, please. I'll just speak a
14 little bit more about the longevity of our program.
15 This is our 2017 crew with the two high school interns
16 on the right. Levi is one of our former interns that
17 we hired as a crewmember this year and Katrina is the
18 crew leader, who is a former intern of several years
19 ago and she got promoted to crew leader this year.

20
21 So we're really happy with this program
22 and it seems to be a really good professional
23 development. The two interns that we worked with this
24 year all are pursuing biological sciences and I'm sure
25 we'll see them all again as professionals.

26
27 That pretty much sums up what I wanted
28 to talk about that was new. As you know we submitted a
29 proposal for continuation of the sockeye stock
30 assessment project. We also hope to integrate a KANA
31 intern or two. This year we tried to do that and we
32 didn't have any qualified candidates this summer, but
33 if funding continues we hope to pursue that and get a
34 couple interns from them.

35
36 With that I am happy to answer any
37 questions about the 2017 season or questions about the
38 proposal.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Someone needs to
41 mute their phone. Do we have any questions for Mark.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Through the Chair, Pat.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mark. Excellent
48 report. One of the details I think you left out on
49 your intern program on its success, which is absolutely

50

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1 commendable, was that the area management biologist for
2 sport fish, Tyler Polum, I think at least is still your
3 boss, he started out as an intern in that program. I
4 think it's probably one of the outstanding programs
5 that goes on in the state. I really want to salute you
6 on that. Also being able to keep that program going for
7 so long.

8
9 I have a couple of questions or one
10 basic question that I always ask is what does it look
11 like for next year. Granted, when you folks have the
12 funding for the smolt program through OSM, you had a
13 little more precision on knowing what the upcoming
14 years returns should be by looking at how fat or skinny
15 the smolt were.

16
17 But what I'm wondering is, looking back
18 at your graphs in Figure 1, the 2013-2014 and then also
19 your average age it seems to be a five-year return on
20 the fish. So given that the 2013-2014 escapements were
21 over the upper end of the escapement goal, what do you
22 think is going to be happening next year? Will there
23 be another drop in the returns or what is your
24 scientific gut estimate?

25
26 MR. WITTEVEEN: Thanks, Pat, for those
27 comments. Yeah, we're still analyzing data from this
28 year, so we did collect a lot of scale information as
29 I'm sure you know and we haven't finished aging that.
30 So that would be our primary indicator for next year at
31 this point. We are coming off some strong escapements,
32 but I think they're well within the range of what we
33 can expect reasonable returns based on the size of
34 returning fish.

35
36 You know, there was pretty good
37 distribution of bigger fish and smaller fish, which
38 would suggest that there are a fair number of two ocean
39 fish in the escapement this year and a three ocean
40 component that would be related to that next year. So
41 we'll have more information on that coming in the next
42 couple weeks as we age fish, but my speculation would
43 be that things are going to continue on and be pretty
44 strong.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you very much.
49 That would be great. When we have our winter meeting
50

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1 if you could give us an update then on what you've been
2 able to put together, I think that would help a lot of
3 folks with their planning. Thanks a bunch there, Mark.

4

5 MR. WITTEVEEN: Thanks, Pat. Yeah,
6 we'll certainly do that.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any more
9 comments for Mark.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none.
14 Mark, thank you very much for your report.

15

16 MR. WITTEVEEN: Madame Chair, thank
17 you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving on, we'll
20 continue with ADF&G wildlife. Svoboda.

21

22 MR. SVOBODA: Hi. This is Nate Svoboda
23 with Fish and Game in Kodiak. Can you hear me okay?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We hear you
26 fine. Go ahead.

27

28 MR. SVOBODA: All right. Great. First
29 of all thank you for allowing me the opportunity to
30 provide you with some information today. Just to give
31 you an idea on how I'm going to run through this, I'm
32 going to go species by species and first talk about
33 some of the harvest information and then some of the
34 research that we're doing. I will be sure to try to
35 limit this to 10 or 15 minutes here.

36

37 First I'd like to talk about brown
38 bears. The harvest from fall -- talk about the spring
39 and the fall harvest. The fall of 2016 in Kodiak we
40 harvested 73 bears, 45 of which were male, 28 females.
41 That gave us a 62 percent male harvest. None of those
42 bears were harvested under the subsistence regulations.

43

44

45 For those interested we did have nine
46 trophy bear skulls in the fall of 2016. Those are bear
47 skulls that measure over 28 inches, both the length and
48 the width combined. The largest total skull in the
49 fall of 2016 was 29-1/4 inches.

50

1 In the spring of 2017, we harvested 118
2 bears, 93 of which were male, 25 were female and that's
3 about a 79 percent male harvest. We typically target
4 about a 60 percent male harvest in any given season.
5 There were two subsistence bears harvested in the
6 spring of 2017.

7
8 For those interested, we did have 14
9 trophy skulls that were registered in the spring of
10 2017, the largest of which was 29.7 inches. Hide
11 quality was pretty good both in the spring and the
12 fall. We do get some rubbed bears from time to time,
13 but overall this year seemed to have pretty good hides.

14
15 The non-sport mortalities that we've
16 had this year, which are bears that came to our office
17 that were either harvested as in defense of life or
18 property or perhaps they were just natural death that
19 somebody found the skull and brought it in or agency
20 kills are also included in this number.

21
22 In 2017-18 so far we've had 13 bears
23 checked into our office, two males, three females and
24 seven bears unknown gender. Seven of those were bears
25 killed in defense of life or property, five of those
26 were natural or what we classify as natural
27 mortalities, and then one male bear was killed by the
28 Alaska wildlife troopers.

29
30 Bear activity in town has been pretty
31 similar to previous years, however this year we seem to
32 be having a large number of incidents with fishermen
33 largely because I think we need to do a better job of
34 getting the message out to fishermen and how they need
35 to be responding to bears that come into the area when
36 they're fishing.

37
38 It's quite often we have problems when
39 fishermen forfeit their fish to bears. Unknowingly
40 they think they just need to drop their fish and get
41 away, so that has continued to be a problem and
42 actually resulted in a few bear deaths this year
43 already. But overall activity in town is pretty
44 similar to previous years. We haven't had a whole lot
45 of activity this summer, which is a good thing for
46 sure.

47
48 Moving on to some of the research
49 activities with regard to bears. We do have a
50

1 Sitkalidak project going on down in Sitkalidak Island
2 right outside of Old Harbor and that's a collaborative
3 project with Old Harbor Native Corporation, the Kodiak
4 Brown Bear Trust and then much of the funding has come
5 from the Dallas Safari Club. The goal of the project
6 is to estimate annual litter production and cub
7 survival as well as investigate reproductive interval
8 of adult females, so how often are females having
9 young.

10
11 This is a continuation of a long-term
12 project. This actually began with my predecessor, Dr.
13 VanDale, in 2008. The goal is to look at survival and
14 productivity. So from 2008 to present we've captured
15 and radio-collared 31 female bears and monitored them
16 annually.

17
18 For those of you who don't know,
19 studies like this where you're investigating
20 reproductive interval and survival, usually you have to
21 have 20 or 30 years of data before you can really tell
22 anything with any amount of confidence regarding the
23 population, so we're going on about 10 years now.
24 Bears that we've collared have been tracked annually
25 anywhere from one to 10 years with the females observed
26 anywhere from zero to seven times annually.

27
28 As you can imagine, some bears we put a
29 collar on and then just never see them again, so that
30 kind of explains why some of the bears we have yet to
31 observe at all. We have observed 56 dependent cubs.
32 When I say dependent cubs, I'm talking about bears
33 ranging anywhere from six months old to basically about
34 two and a half or three and a half years old depending
35 upon when they get weaned. So we identified 56
36 dependent cubs belonging to 18 females and they were
37 monitored consistently until they weaned or died or
38 otherwise weren't able to be located.

39
40 From 2008 to this last month we've
41 completed 40 flights to assess survival and
42 productivity. Our mean female reproductive interval,
43 which is how often females have cubs, was one litter
44 about every 4.13 years. So about every four years
45 female bears on Sitkalidak are having cubs. However,
46 this data was a little bit skewed because we have kind
47 of a low sample size and one bear we observed didn't
48 have a litter at all for six years, so that certainly
49 skewed some of the data, but for the most part bears

50

1 are having cubs about every chance they get, about
2 every three to four years.

3
4 As soon as they wean the cubs from the
5 previous litter they immediately have cubs the
6 following year. That seems to be pretty consistent
7 looking at our data. The mean litter size for these
8 known breeding females is about 2.9 cubs per litter.

9
10 Then we also looked at, as I mentioned,
11 age specific survival. I apologize for not providing
12 you guys any handouts, so I'm going to give you a few
13 numbers here. If you want to jot them down, it might
14 help you to better understand what we're looking at
15 with regard to age specific survival. We look at
16 survival of cubs every six months. As you know, we
17 don't really even get to see them for the first time
18 until they're already six months old because they're
19 usually born in January or February. We don't get a
20 chance to see them until spring or summer.

21
22 What we've observed over the last
23 decade is cubs on Sitkalidak ranging from six months
24 old to one year have about a 85 percent survival rate
25 and bears from one year to one and a half years have
26 about a 93 percent survival rate. Bears one and a half
27 to two have 100 percent survival and then bears two to
28 two and a half dips down to about a 81 percent
29 survival. That can be due to a couple reasons. One,
30 bears are dying or, two, bears are being weaned earlier
31 than maybe that we might think.

32
33 So quite often brown bears usually are
34 weaned between two and a half and three and a half
35 years old depending on resource availability. What
36 research has shown is that bears that have abundant
37 resources will often wean their cubs a year earlier so
38 they can again get pregnant and have more cubs the
39 following year. So that could be one of the reasons
40 for that dip in survival.

41
42 Because bears going from two and a half
43 to three years old have a 96 percent survival rate,
44 three to three and a half years old have 91 percent
45 survival rate and anything over that we've observed
46 have pretty much 100 percent survival rate. So all of
47 that combined gives us about a cumulative survival rate
48 of about 57 percent from six months old until bears are
49 weaned. So it's a pretty high survival and Sitkalidak

50

1 is a very productive population.

2
3 Currently we're monitoring 13 bears on
4 Sitkalidak Island, however seven of those were collared
5 in 2012 or earlier. So this year our goal is to
6 increase the sample size again to get that up to 20 or
7 30 animals. This is expected to be a long term. As I
8 mentioned earlier, these types of studies really
9 require a long-term dataset before you can see anything
10 with any amount of confidence. So we plan on keeping
11 this as an ongoing project as long as our partners are
12 willing and interested.

13
14 So moving on from Sitkalidak to
15 Afognak. I know the last couple years I've been
16 telling you guys we have a big Afognak project that
17 we've been trying to kick off. It's taken about three
18 and a half years to finally get it implemented, but
19 this year we were able to do that. This is a large-
20 scale project where we have a number of collaborators,
21 including four Native corporations. Those being
22 Ouzinkie Native Corporation, Natives of Kodiak, Afognak
23 Native Corporation and Koniag Regional Corporation.

24
25 We also obtained an intern this year.
26 Jessica Rich was her name and that was an intern we
27 obtained from the Sun'aq Tribe, so we shared Jessica
28 all summer long. She was super helpful helping out on
29 the Afognak project. Some of the other partners on the
30 project are the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust as well as
31 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

32
33 The goal of this project is to evaluate
34 seasonal and annual habitat use and resource use. So
35 what habitats are bears and elk using as well as what
36 food resources are they using at different times of the
37 year and how does this relate timber harvest in forest
38 successional stage or how old the forest is.

39
40 As some of you might know, Afognak
41 Island has been forested pretty significantly since
42 about the '70s. The main goal of the project is to try
43 to determine what impact, either positive or negative,
44 that this might be having on movement and distribution
45 of both bears and Roosevelt Elk.

46
47 So, as I mentioned, we just kicked off
48 the project this year and we'll continue for the next
49 five years. So this June we captured and handled --

50

1 well, June and again in September for a couple reasons
2 I won't get into, but we did capture and handle 79
3 bears, 47 females and 32 males, as well as 43 elk,
4 which I'll talk about here a little bit later.

5
6 One thing that we were able to do this
7 summer that was really interesting is we were able to
8 weigh pretty much all of the animals. About 90 percent
9 of the animals we were able to weigh using a helicopter
10 and a crane scale. The mean weights, the average
11 weights that we got for spring bears, these are bears
12 just caught in June, not including the ones in
13 September.

14
15 The females averaged about 400 pounds
16 each and range from 214 pounds to 752 pounds. The
17 males on the other hand had a mean body weight in the
18 spring of 526 pounds and ranged anywhere from 167
19 pounds to about 950 pounds.

20
21 As I mentioned, we also did recaptures
22 in September for a couple reasons. In September we
23 recaptured five females, three of which were able to be
24 re-weighed. This I think is kind of interesting
25 information. The weight gains that we observed for the
26 three months between captures from June to September we
27 had three females that we were able to re-weigh and
28 they averaged an average weight gain for those three
29 months of 154 pounds. One female gained 80 pounds, one
30 female gained 181 and another gained 200 pounds in
31 those three months.

32
33 On the other hand we were able to
34 recapture and re-weigh one male bear which gained
35 pretty close to about 300 pounds in those three months.
36 So it was averaging about 100 pounds a month of weight
37 gain for at least the one male bear that we were able
38 to weigh twice. That's something that's somewhat
39 unique. It's been quite a long time since we've been
40 able to weigh live bears on Kodiak, so it's really
41 valuable information.

42
43 This project will continue as I
44 mentioned for the next five years and we've had
45 incredible cooperation from our Native partners as well
46 as the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust. It's taken a long time
47 to get going, but its really been a successful summer
48 so far.

49
50

1 One of the other projects we're working
2 on that I won't really touch on is a collaborative
3 project with the National Wildlife Refuge. It deals
4 with berry production and berry phenology. My
5 colleague Bill Pyle spoke to this earlier, so I won't
6 really get into it, but it's been a great project.
7 Bill's done a phenomenal job of taking the lead on it
8 and really trudging ahead, so I appreciate that.

9
10 Moving on to Sitka Blacktail deer. In
11 2016-17 we harvested 8,185 deer, which is the highest
12 harvest we've had since the late 1990s. Of those 8,185
13 deers, 7,262 of them were males and 923 were females.
14 As Bill mentioned earlier, we did have a fairly
15 significant overwinter deer mortality last year.
16 However, we've had a pretty mild summer and based on
17 anecdotal evidence that we're getting from
18 transporters, hunters and guides as well as our own
19 observations in the field, the deer population still is
20 pretty robust.

21
22 It should be a pretty good year for
23 deer hunting. I don't think it will necessarily compare
24 with last year. It was kind of a phenomenal year for
25 hunting and due to this die-off it might not be quite
26 as good, but based on the number and the condition of
27 deer we've seen this year we should be okay.

28
29 Moving on to Roosevelt elk. In 2016-17
30 we harvested 86 elk, 53 bulls and 33 cows. This is the
31 highest harvest we've had since 2008 and 2009 season.
32 But things have been really good. The population
33 continues to expand. However, we would like to
34 increase our cow harvest in some areas of the
35 Archipelago, specifically Raspberry Island in the
36 southwest Afognak area. Southwest Afognak is open.
37 We'll have a registration season, which runs from
38 October 23rd to November 30th where you can just come
39 in and get a permit over the counter.

40
41 So for those of you interested in elk
42 hunting southwest Afognak we could really use your help
43 in reducing the cow population there. We do overall
44 have an increasing population. Although we weren't
45 able to conduct our last survey for this year due to
46 weather and elk season started on Monday, so we don't
47 like to be out there surveying when hunters are out
48 there.

49
50

1 The elk population is doing well. We
2 estimate it to be between 1,000 and 1,200 animals,
3 which is the first time we've exceeded our 1,000 elk
4 estimates since the late '90s, so the population is
5 increasing slightly so that's a good thing. Our
6 calf/cow ratio is about 21 calves per 100 cows, which
7 is okay. I'd prefer it to be a little bit higher, but
8 that's still a really good ratio.

9
10 The bull/cow ration is 16 bulls per 100
11 cows, which is pretty decent. We don't want to get it
12 too much higher than that. So overall that population
13 is looking really good. However, we do believe that
14 there's greater potential for the population. So
15 that's part of the reason we have this study underway
16 to investigate the impacts of winter as well as
17 logging.

18
19 As I mentioned with the bears as far as
20 research, we refer to it as the Afognak Elk and Bear
21 Project. Again, as I mentioned, we started this
22 project, really kicked it off this year with our Native
23 corporation partners and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation,
24 the Brown Bear Trust. Similar objectives for elk as we
25 have for bears and that again is looking at seasonal
26 and annual habitat and resource use. So what foods and
27 what habitats are they using at different times of the
28 year and how does that link to different forest stage
29 stands.

30
31 You know, there's a real patchwork of
32 different forest ages due to logging, so we're trying
33 to disentangle some of the questions relative to elk
34 and brown bears and how they're using the landscape
35 after the logging.

36
37 So 2017, in addition to the 79 bears
38 that I mentioned earlier, we captured and radio-
39 collared 43 elk, 23 cows and 20 bulls on both Afognak
40 and Raspberry Islands. We did get really good
41 distribution. There's eight herds on the two islands
42 and we did get a couple cows and at least one bull from
43 each herd, so that will be really interesting to see
44 how that goes.

45
46 We'll obtain hourly locations, we'll
47 get a location on every bear and every elk at one
48 location every hour until September of 2019, so we
49 should have some really good data. Until then, on
50

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1 September 1st of 2019 all the radio collars should drop
2 off the animals. Before I mention the weights of brown
3 bears in the spring, and I do have some weight
4 information that is kind of interesting.

5
6 The spring weight for elk that we were
7 able to weigh, the mean or the average cow weight in
8 the spring was 584 pounds and ranged anywhere from 282
9 to 694 pounds. Bulls on the other hand had an average
10 weight of 703 pounds and ranged anywhere from 500 to
11 pretty close to 1,000 pounds. So pretty large animals
12 as many of you probably know.

13
14 The ultimate goal of this is to work
15 with our Native partners to develop a long-term forest
16 and wildlife management strategy. We like the strategy
17 to incorporate certain things such as sustainable
18 logging, responsible wildlife management as well as
19 increased sport and subsistence harvest opportunities.
20 It's taken a while to get this underway, but there's a
21 lot of forward momentum going. Our Native partners
22 have been really excited about the project and it's
23 nice to have it finally underway, so that's great.

24
25 Moving on to mountain goats. In 2016
26 and '17 there were 315 goats harvested, 210 of which
27 were billies, 104 were nannies, one of which was
28 unknown gender. This is down slightly from the last
29 two years, but overall our harvest continues to
30 increase pretty significantly annually. Just three or
31 four years ago we were only harvesting about 200
32 animals. We're getting close to 400 now. Last year
33 was 383. This year we have a little bit of a dip down
34 to 315.

35
36 Overall, both the harvest and the
37 population has been growing. There has been increased
38 interest the last few years in hunters harvesting two
39 goats in our registration goat hunt 480.
40 For those of you who don't know pretty much the half
41 the island, the western half of the island or southern
42 half of the island, depending on how you look at it, is
43 a two-goat bag limit, either sex. They're just
44 registration, so you can just come to our office or you
45 can get registration permits online. There has been
46 increased interest in that for sure.

47
48 Last regulatory year we issued a little
49 over 1,500 registration permits just for RG480 alone
50

1 and that's out of the about 2,000 permits that we issue
2 total, about 1,500 of them are for the registration
3 area. Out of 315 goats that were harvested last year,
4 226 were harvested out of the registration goat hunt
5 area. It's a real good area to hunt. For those who
6 don't know, Kodiak is quickly becoming a goat hunting
7 destination hotspot. We're seeing more and more people
8 from the mainland and non-residents coming every year
9 and continues to increase.

10
11 During our 2017-18 surveys that we
12 cooperated with the Wildlife Refuge on, as Bill
13 mentioned earlier, they did kind of the southern half
14 of the island and Fish and Game did the northern half.
15 This year we observed 3,254 goats island wide and that
16 is the largest count in history by quite a bit. The
17 goat population continues to grow pretty rapidly, but
18 as does the number of hunters and the harvest.

19
20 For instance our 2015-16 estimate we
21 counted 2,732 goats. So we're up a little over 500 in
22 the last two years. The kid/adult ratio is about 25
23 kids per 100 adults. Needless to say the goat
24 population is robust and continues to do fairly well.
25 The faucet is wide open as far as harvesting goats,
26 particularly in the RG480 area, so I encourage people
27 to get out there and shoot some goats.

28
29 We do have a research project underway
30 with the Wildlife Refuge. Essentially we're trying to
31 quantify seasonal annual habitat use and movements.
32 It's been kind of a nightmare. We've had some problems
33 with radio collars, so I'm not going to get into the
34 issues with the project, but we're trying to kind of
35 re-kickstart the project now since we had some major
36 catastrophic collar failures in the last couple years,
37 but I won't get into that.

38
39 Moving on to furbearers. I'm just
40 about done here. Furbearers in 2016-17, 30 beaver were
41 harvested and 126 land otters were harvested. That's
42 pretty average. Last year we had the highest number of
43 land otters harvested in the last decade. So this year
44 it's considerably lower and it's more along the average
45 of what's harvested on Kodiak from year to year.

46
47 As I mentioned the last couple years
48 mink are continuing to show up on the North Road system
49 and on Long Island. We're not really sure how they got
50

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1 here or how many of them there are, but it is a concern
2 of ours and we're going to probably address that here
3 at the upcoming Board of Game next year.

4
5 With regard to caribou in 2016-17, we
6 harvested 46 caribou, 28 males and 18 females. This is
7 the largest caribou harvest on record since they were I
8 guess changed from feral reindeer to caribou this year.
9 We normally harvest about 20. This year we harvested
10 46, so there was an increased interest this year for
11 whatever reason. We did have more hunters out there as
12 well.

13
14 The population though is still pretty
15 stable or perhaps even slightly increasing. It usually
16 maintains about 300-325 animals. Now we're up to about
17 350-400 animals, so it's pretty stable. Maybe slightly
18 increasing, but with the increased harvest we don't
19 anticipate that continuing.

20
21 Lastly our bison. I addressed this the
22 last couple years because of the bison concerns that
23 we've had, but thanks to Melissa and the Old Harbor
24 Native Corporation this is no longer a Fish and Game
25 issue, so we don't really have much to say on that.

26
27 With that, that's all I have. Sorry, I
28 know that was a lot of information to try to digest
29 there, but hopefully you got at least the lion's share
30 of it. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to take
31 those now.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
34 questions at this time from Council members, comments.
35 Go ahead.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, Nate. This is
38 Coral. I had a question about your bear populations.

39
40 MR. SVOBODA: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Do you guys look at like
43 maximum populations that certain areas can sustain?
44 Like, for example, we see a lot of bears in town or
45 maybe they're just reported more so it seems like
46 there's more. But is that population of bears near the
47 city of Kodiak is that a growing population or is it
48 staying the same or do you in general just look at
49 populations all over the island and not by area?

50

1 MR. SVODOBA: Yeah, well, that's a good
2 question, Coral. As you can imagine, getting a
3 population estimate for brown bears is really difficult
4 to do particularly on a large landscaped level like we
5 have on Kodiak. We do, as Bill kind of alluded to
6 earlier with our intensive aerial surveys, we do do
7 those every summer when the weather cooperates and
8 those are more localized and focus more on a particular
9 area.

10
11 For instance, as Bill mentioned, this
12 year it was in southwest Kodiak. That covers a pretty
13 good area. However it is still fairly localized and we
14 can get pretty good estimates for localized areas
15 during those surveys, but again that's just a snapshot
16 of what's taking place. As you can imagine,
17 immigration and emigration takes place and bears move
18 in and out of the population, so it's really hard to
19 put your finger on.

20
21 With regard to bears along the road
22 system, we don't do intensive aerial surveys on the
23 road system largely because it's probably not really
24 necessary. We have a pretty good handle on how many
25 bears are along the road system or at least maybe not
26 numbers per se, but we know when they become an issue
27 and we do that because we have what we call the Road
28 System Bear Group, which is made up of a variety of
29 agencies and personnel that reports bear observations
30 to -- every day any bear observation that's observed
31 along the road system that's reported to one of these
32 people or agencies they send a report to me and we map
33 these in real time every morning.

34
35 So we have a pretty good handle on what
36 goes on along the road system with regard to bears. We
37 don't have necessarily numbers per se, but we do have a
38 really good handle on bear activity along the road
39 system.

40
41 I don't know if that necessarily
42 answers your question. If not, maybe I can clarify it
43 a little bit more.

44
45 MS. CHERNOFF: I think that answered my
46 question except for I may have asked or meant to ask do
47 those numbers -- do you realize when it seems like
48 bears have reached their saturation point, like the
49 maximum number that that area can sustain? So I guess

50

1 talking about the road system and all those reports,
2 would you ever look at something like that and say this
3 is all that this system can sustain?
4

5 MR. SVOBODA: So there's a couple
6 things to address there. One is the biological
7 carrying capacity and the other is social carrying
8 capacity, right? So biological carrying capacity is
9 what the environment can sustain, what the resources
10 will allow the population to sustain itself out at.
11

12 The other, which is what occurs when
13 the road system is I guess more appropriately referred
14 to as social carrying capacity and that's what
15 individuals that live in Kodiak and along the road
16 system that's kind of how we manage the bear population
17 on the road system based on social carrying capacity.
18 So what will the community and the public tolerate with
19 regard to bears along the road system. That's kind of
20 how we manage bears on the road system.
21

22 For those who don't know, the bear
23 hunting season on Kodiak is primarily a drawing hunt,
24 but along the road system we have a registration hunt.
25 The purpose of the registration hunt is to reduce
26 human/bear conflict and to reduce the bear population
27 along the road system. You can just come into our
28 office and get a registration permit and go out and
29 shoot a bear along the road system if you're an Alaska
30 resident. So that's kind of how we manage those
31 populations, Coral.
32

33 The road system is primarily a social
34 carrying capacity and I don't think bears will ever get
35 to the point or wouldn't be tolerated -- social
36 carrying capacity is typically much smaller than
37 biological carrying capacity just because --
38 particularly for large carnivores like brown bears,
39 people just don't tolerate densely populated bear
40 populations in areas that have densely populated human
41 populations.
42

43 So we do monitor, I guess, the social
44 carrying capacity of bears along the road system, but
45 not necessarily the biological carrying capacity. We
46 try to address that kind of in real time based on the
47 number of human/wildlife conflicts that are reported
48 and the issues that we have along the road system. But
49 putting a number on it is extremely difficult and that
50

1 we don't do along the road system at all.

2

3 I don't know if that helps.

4

5 MS. CHERNOFF: It does, thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

8 Rebecca.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Hi, Nate. This is
11 Rebecca. Can you talk a little bit about the
12 importance of the berry diet to the bears and give us a
13 sense of what percentage on average or however you want
14 to give it of the bear's diet there on Kodiak comes
15 from the berries. I'm asking this in relation to the
16 very poor berry season that we've observed this year.
17 Thanks.

18

19 MR. SVOBODA: Sure. Yeah, berries are
20 certainly important to bears, you know. Bears exhibit
21 ecological plasticity and that's just a fancy way of
22 saying bears are opportunists. Bears are going to eat
23 basically whatever they can find, whether it's berries
24 or whether it's deer, whether it's fish or whether it's
25 some other marine-derived nutrients. Bears are going
26 to take advantage of that. However, much of the
27 research has shown that both berries and salmon are
28 incredibly important to Kodiak brown bears.

29

30 It's important for bears to have a
31 mixed diet. I don't off the top of my head know what
32 the -- you know, I don't think anyone does what the
33 ideal ratio is of salmon to berries. What I can tell
34 you is both of those resources are extremely important
35 to bears. It is a concern of both the Refuge and of
36 Fish and Game. The poor berry abundance that we've had
37 this year and what that might mean for the bears in
38 Archipelago, particularly bears along the road system.

39

40

41 As Bill kind of alluded to earlier, one
42 of our concerns is what does this mean for hunters.
43 You know, bears typically will eat salmon earlier in
44 the year and then as the salmon starts to waiver
45 they'll switch over to eating largely a berry diet.
46 With the poor berry production this year that might not
47 necessarily be an option in a lot of areas. It's yet
48 to be determined how that's going to play out for the
49 bears.

50

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1 Overall I'm not overly concerned about
2 the berry population right now. All indications of
3 other research have shown that bears are doing really
4 well on Kodiak and we continue to harvest old bears and
5 we continue to find old bears that have died of natural
6 causes. Based on their body condition scores and their
7 weights we haven't seen anything alarming yet.

8
9 So I don't know if that necessarily
10 answers your question, but I don't.....

11
12 MS. SKINNER: No, it did. It did.
13 Thanks.

14
15 MR. SVOBODA:really feel
16 comfortable on trying to -- okay.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
19 comments. Sam.

20
21 MR. ROHRER: Good morning, Nate. Sam
22 Rohrer here.

23
24 MR. SVOBODA: Hi, Sam.

25
26 MR. ROHRER: Thanks for being online.
27 Can you just talk a little bit about what your opinion
28 is on the -- or what the Department's position is on
29 total number of goats, the carrying capacity for goats
30 on Kodiak Island.

31
32 MR. SVOBODA: That is actually kind of
33 tied into what I kind of breezed over with regard to
34 our goat project that we have in collaboration with the
35 Wildlife Refuge. That's one of the things that we're
36 really interested in looking at. The goats on Kodiak
37 have pretty much exhibited exponential growth since
38 they were introduced in the '50s.

39
40 We're trying to take measures to try to
41 get a handle on -- I think we have a good handle on the
42 population, but what we don't have a really good handle
43 on right now is seasonal annual resource use and what
44 their primary diet consists of during these different
45 times of year.

46
47 Before we can really get a handle on
48 the impact that they might be having on the habitat we
49 really need to disentangle some of these questions

50

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1 about resource use and how that changes throughout the
2 season. So it's something that we are super interested
3 in, you know.

4
5 As I mentioned before, we do have so to
6 speak the faucet wide open with regard to goats
7 particularly in RG480. A lot of the goat populations
8 that are on, I guess, eastern side of the island a lot
9 of them have kind of stabilized. You know, we do have
10 obviously fluctuations from year to year within each of
11 those metapopulations, but nothing like RG480 where the
12 goats seem to just continue to explode.

13
14 Even though we have a two goat bag
15 limit, we have an eight or nine month season, it's
16 registration permit, it seems as if we still might need
17 to harvest a number of goats. But really we're not
18 going to know the impact that they're having on the
19 habitat until we can get a research study underway to
20 investigate that.

21
22 Working with the Refuge we did
23 implement a fairly large-scale project in 2015, but
24 unfortunately like 90 percent of our radio collars
25 failed within the first six months. So what the Refuge
26 and Fish and Game are currently looking at ways we can
27 get this project off the ground again and we're hoping
28 to do that next summer.

29
30 As the Refuge has alluded to earlier,
31 we both have some interest and possible concerns on
32 what this elevated goat population might mean for the
33 habitat.

34
35 MR. ROHRER: Thanks, Nate.

36
37 MR. SVOBODA: We need to get some more
38 answers, Sam, is what I'm getting at there.

39
40 MR. ROHRER: Sure, sure. No, I
41 appreciate that.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. I
44 would like to wrap this up.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

49
50

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1 MR. HOLMES: I'd just like to quickly
2 comment on the Fish and Game Advisory Committee study
3 group that's worked on goats and other mammals and a
4 real positive relationship with the Refuge and the
5 Department of Fish and Game through the years. I sat
6 in on a lot of the meetings of the study group as a
7 subsistence advocate as well as Mitch and a lot of the
8 other folks on the RAC, but not necessarily
9 representing the RAC, but subsistence users. I think
10 that the Kodiak model that's been developed on
11 providing for subsistence in creative ways as well as
12 providing for good management of the critters has been
13 pretty darn exceptions. So my hat's off to everybody.

14
15 I would also like to comment on that
16 intern program. Jessica, I listened to her little
17 seminar at the end of the season. I'd say anybody
18 that's in the resource business that sees her resume
19 come across your desk, you should hire her because
20 she's an exceptional young lady and I think that shows
21 the positive results of intern programs, be it
22 fisheries or game.

23
24 Anyway, good job.

25
26 MR. SVOBODA: Thank you, Pat.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
29 we'll move on.

30
31 MR. SVOBODA: Thank you, Madame Chair
32 and the rest of the Council. I appreciate your time.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Nate.
35 I know we don't have ADF&G King Salmon online, but,
36 Chris, are you still available?

37
38 MS. PETERSON: Yes, Madame Chair. This
39 is Chris Peterson from Fish and Game in King Salmon.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Am I correct
42 that you didn't have a report today but would have one
43 for the winter meeting?

44
45 MS. PETERSON: I do not recall anyone
46 talking about that with me. I do have a very -- what I
47 was asked to provide today was a summary of the Unimak
48 Island caribou.

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

2

3 MS. PETERSON: And I have a little bit
4 of information on that if that's correct.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That's
7 perfect. We'll go ahead and have Colton come up and do
8 a report on McLees Lake and then I think we'll go ahead
9 and let you do your report and then we'll go on to
10 Izembek and then we'll talk about Unit 10 caribou.

11

12 MS. PETERSON: Okay. So just to
13 clarify, so after he gives his report you want this
14 little bit about Unimak or is that off until after the
15 other reports?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go ahead
18 and do Izembek and then we'll have you -- then we'll
19 tie in that little bit that way.

20

21 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Perfect.
24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. PETERSON: So I will -- thank you.
27 Bye.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on. Tom.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'd like to hear
32 specifically if she has anything on the Unimak Caribou
33 Herd.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's what she
36 said she had. He didn't hear that, but, yes, that's
37 what Chris will be reporting on.

38

39 Okay, good morning, Colton.

40

41 MR. LIPKA: Good morning, Madame Chair
42 and Council members. I'm Colton Lipka with the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
44 Division. I'm the assistant area manager biologist for
45 the South Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands area
46 and the project leader for the McLees Lake Weir.

47

48 What I've prepared for you today is
49 just a brief overview of the project history and a

50

1 summary of the 2017 season. The McLees Lake sockeye
2 salmon run is an important subsistence resource for the
3 community of Unalaska and it accounts for approximately
4 70 percent of the annual subsistence salmon harvest.

5
6 The weir has operated from 2001 to
7 2017. The project was initiated by the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Qawalangin
9 Tribe from 2001 to 2011 and by ADF&G in cooperation
10 with the Qawalangin Tribe from 2012 to 2017 with
11 funding provided by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund.

12
13
14 Sockeye salmon escape has ranged from
15 8,661 fish in 2008 to 101,793 fish in 2003. The
16 average return is 31,631 fish with the run typically
17 peaking in the first week of July. The 2017 return was
18 below average at 13,195 sockeye salmon with
19 characteristics of later than average run timing.

20
21 In response to the low return, ADF&G
22 issued emergency orders restricting subsistence fishing
23 within 500 yards of the stream mouth from July 1 until
24 July 22nd to provide protection and allow more fish to
25 enter the system, ensuring adequate spawning for future
26 returns. ADF&G has established a sustainable
27 escapement goal of 10,000 to 60,000 sockeye salmon and
28 has met this goal every year since 2001 with the
29 exception of 2008 and 2009.

30
31 The McLees Lake Weir is an integral
32 management tool for Unalaska's largest subsistence
33 salmon resource and a valuable data collection project
34 for long-term monitoring of the system's health and
35 productivity. Currently the status of the funding of
36 the weir is uncertain. The Department has submitted a
37 proposal to OSM for four additional years of funding
38 and we are waiting notice of that funding.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Colton. This is number 4 on that list we had when the
44 two tied and then there was Unalaska harvest practices
45 and then estimation of sockeye on McLees Lake. That is
46 the project you're talking about?

47
48 MR. LIPKA: That is correct, Madame
49 Chair.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do
2 we have any comments or questions for Colton. Rebecca.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I was
5 wondering if you could talk more about the partnership
6 with the tribe. I guess I'm looking for more
7 specifics. Is it a formalized partnership with MOA or
8 something like that. It sounds like from what you said
9 earlier there's a long history of ADF&G partnering with
10 the tribe, but if you could expand on that so we could
11 better understand the partnership. Thanks.

12
13 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. So the
14 partnership has gone on since the beginning of the
15 project and it follows -- the tribe from Unalaska
16 provides one fisheries technician and the State agency
17 or the Fish and Wildlife Service provided the other
18 Tech 3 and crew leader. The two technicians work
19 throughout the summer and we maintain close contact
20 with the tribe as the project goes along.

21
22 For the future of the project we'll be
23 directly involving the tribe with the hiring process
24 with an emphasis on getting local hires to the weir and
25 expanding some of the scientific profession out there.
26 We are also trying to plan an educational excursion
27 through the summer to get local youth from Unalaska out
28 to the weir and expose them to some of the fisheries
29 science that we are taking.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does
32 that answer your question?

33
34 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, by any
37 chance do you have any comments or questions for
38 Colton?

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering how did
45 the -- we were hoping that they might be able to get a
46 community harvest permit for McLees to take some
47 pressure off of the Front Beach and Unalaska Lake. Was
48 the community able to put that together this year?

49
50

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1 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. No, the
2 community permit did not go through this year.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: That's indeed unfortunate.
5 I was hoping that that might be a way to get some
6 positive results on getting more returns into Unalaska
7 Lake because when we had our meeting out there it was
8 pretty apparent that not much has happened in the last
9 20 years. But I understand that Unalaska Fisherman's
10 Association has hired Abby to kind of coordinate things
11 so hopefully there will be some improvement there to
12 try to get some resolution to the problems for a
13 community sockeye harvest for folks.

14
15 I really appreciate you following
16 through and keeping that program going. I know that
17 our Council is going to continue to hope to see the
18 funding go through for that weir.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, then
23 Antone.

24
25 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Can you talk a
26 little bit about the challenges that will occur if you
27 don't have a weir at McLees Lake.

28
29 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. So in
30 the absence of a weir at the lake we will revert an
31 aerial survey-based assessment prior to the weir's
32 installment in 2001. That was the manner in which that
33 run was assessed. I believe our dataset goes back to
34 1985. So we would just institute that program again in
35 midsummer fly from either Cold Bay or Sand Point and
36 conduct aerial surveys.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: What would be the impact
39 to the ability of people in Unalaska to keep doing
40 subsistence harvest? Would going back to an aerial
41 survey have an impact on the actual subsistence harvest
42 availability?

43
44 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. So if
45 we revert to aerial surveys being a less precise method
46 of enumeration, the Department will be more
47 conservative with our management of that subsistence
48 fishery. So in years of low runs, for instance like
49 this year, the closures could be longer.

50

1 Does that answer your question?

2
3 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Antone.

6
7 MR. SHELIKOFF: Thank you, Madame
8 Chair. Antone with the RAC. I have one question and
9 probably some comments. What is fish escapement?
10 What's that defined? The fish that gets counted. And
11 the comment I had was none of the subsistence harvest
12 books have that definition.

13
14 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. We're
15 looking for the definition of escapement?

16
17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah.

18
19 MR. LIPKA: So escapement are fish that
20 have passed the weir and moved upstream to the lake to
21 spawn. So once they are past the weir they can no
22 longer return downstream and they are classified as
23 escapement.

24
25 MR. SHELIKOFF: Okay.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: And on that could you
30 just clarify are those real numbers or those numbers
31 come about by counting a certain amount and then doing
32 a formula?

33
34 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. The
35 weir provides a census of the escapement, so those are
36 real numbers. Each fish counted individually by the
37 technicians on the weir periodically throughout the
38 day.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I've got a
41 question.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Della. Rick.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

46
47 MR. KOSO: I've got a question on the --
48 it sounds like you're getting a lot more escapement up
49 into the lake. Did they ever solve that problem out in
50

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1 the Front Beach as far as getting too many gillnets set
2 prior to the fish being counted up in the lake?

3

4 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. I'm not
5 sure I quite understood your question there, sir.

6

7 MR. KOSO: I think they had a proposal
8 in last year to -- you know, right out in front of the
9 town there they were getting too many gillnets fishing
10 there and they were trying to curtail that. I don't
11 know if that ever happened or what was the outcome on
12 that.

13

14 MR. LIPKA: Through the Chair. Okay,
15 so you're talking about Front Beach.

16

17 MR. KOSO: Yes.

18

19 MR. LIPKA: So that regulation did go
20 into place and there was a buffer put in place on Front
21 Beach, the regulatory signs I believe are out.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: My question I
26 think is I know McLees Lake has been part of the study
27 and the funding for, gosh, a long time. I know it's
28 been on the books for a long time. I guess, in going
29 into four years in this, what is the real purpose, our
30 goal here besides getting the numbers? I'm trying to
31 understand going into this for another four years what
32 is the real goal.

33

34 MR. LIPKA: Madame Chair. The McLees
35 Weir is a valuable in-season management tool for the
36 subsistence fishery. Being the scale of the fishery
37 that takes place, having that information available
38 daily to monitor allows management a more precise tool
39 for ensuring the run is not overharvested or in areas
40 of large runs to allow more harvest opportunity. And
41 then the value of just having the dataset continued
42 provides a stronger set for future management and
43 monitoring the health of the system should any changes
44 take place.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
47 Thank you. Does anybody else have any other questions.
48 Rebecca.

49

50

1 MS. SKINNER: I don't have a question
2 but I do have a comment and this seems like the
3 appropriate time to make it. I do hope that in regards
4 to the FRMP projects I think the importance of weirs
5 and weir counts for continued access to subsistence
6 resources really maximizing the access and having
7 consistent access is really important.

8
9 Last year when we were in Unalaska in
10 August we attended the Fish and Game Advisory Committee
11 meeting and it was very educational. The challenges
12 that are occurring in Unalaska because there isn't
13 enough monitoring to allow for kind of realtime in-
14 season management and that's having a real impact on
15 subsistence users' ability to harvest. So for that
16 reason I do think these weirs are really important to
17 allow access.

18
19 In reading the -- I guess the summary
20 comments that came from the Technical Review Committee
21 they didn't really talk about the partnership with the
22 tribe, so that's why I was asking you to explain the
23 partnership with the tribe. That is one of the things
24 that's considered with these projects.

25
26 So I just want to, I guess, emphasize
27 that there is a long-term relationship there and it's
28 actually being increased and augmented with your new
29 proposal. So you're actually having the tribe
30 participate in the hiring decisions and it sounds like
31 offering more professional or scientific development
32 for locals and for the partners through the tribe.

33
34 The other thing is the importance of
35 this particular weir and this particular fishery, the
36 McLees Lake fishery, to the subsistence users in
37 Unalaska. I think this is kind of akin to the Buskin
38 Weir in Kodiak that I already spoke about, but to hear
39 that 70 percent of the salmon subsistence harvest is
40 coming from McLees Lake, if you don't have a weir and
41 you don't have the counts and you can't have the in-
42 season management, then -- well, without the data there
43 is going to be more conservative management decisions
44 being made and that is going to limit the harvest and
45 it could significantly limit the harvest and the
46 harvest opportunity.

47
48 So, in my opinion, the need for this
49 weir and this project is really important for
50

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1 subsistence use in Unalaska and I just wanted to make
2 sure that I got that on the record.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
7 other comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. You
12 did good.

13

14 MR. LIPKA: Thank you, Madame Chair and
15 Council members.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
18 We're coming up to 12:00 o'clock and I am trying to fly
19 out of here this afternoon because the weather is
20 supposed to come up this evening. If we can go ahead
21 and move to Izembek and then ADF&G King Salmon. We're
22 ready when you are.

23

24 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Members of the Council. My name is Greg Risdahl, the
26 manager of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for the
27 record. First I want to thank you all for coming to
28 Cold Bay. I wish we had a little bigger turnout, but
29 this is what you got. So thank you very much for coming
30 and taking the time to share with us and listen to us.

31

32 I started to say a few things yesterday
33 when we thought we were going to do the report. I have
34 one typo. I'll just put it out there right off the
35 bat. On Page 11, I think it's about the second
36 paragraph under brown bears. The last line says the
37 number of sows decreased from 36 to 3. It should be
38 33. I actually have corrected versions of the report
39 in the back here if you want a cleaner copy. I did fix
40 a couple of other things up, but basically the report
41 is the same.

42

43 I'll start off with the Federal
44 subsistence caribou hunt. We've talked about some of
45 this, so I'm going to just pick out some of the
46 highlights from my report. There's a lot more
47 information than I can give in 15 minutes here.

48

49 As I mentioned yesterday, being the new

50

1 manager here I felt compelled to learn as much as I
2 could about the Refuge and much of the biology and
3 research that we do here is done with partners. We
4 don't have a very big staff. We have a full-time
5 permanent staff of seven and we're short three people
6 right now, so a lot of us are doing double or triple
7 duty just to get the work done.

8
9 But we have phenomenal help from many
10 different agencies. ADF&G number one. Our own
11 Migratory Bird Division does a lot of work for us.
12 U.S. Geological Survey, they do a tremendous amount of
13 work for us. We've got the universities here. SeaLife
14 Center. Lots of folks.

15
16 So like this week I think we have about
17 16 people staying at our bunkhouse and our duplex and
18 another one of our houses, so we're very fortunate that
19 we have such good support. There's a lot of interest
20 in this area. It's a unique place and lots of things
21 are happening as the climate is changing. We're
22 hearing some of that in the reports that have been
23 given already.

24
25 The last thing that I'd like to do
26 after I give this if you're interested I can give a
27 little bit of a snippet on the subsistence and some of
28 the observations that we've had here too that relate to
29 changing wildlife populations and such.

30
31 Moving on to caribou subsistence
32 permits. We've changed that program. I think one of
33 my biggest concerns about the Federal Subsistence
34 Program is that we are always kind of behind the curve.
35 So I was really enjoying listening to the group
36 yesterday. You guys are moving forward with a way to
37 make us be more responsive to changes in the caribou
38 harvest, for example, for the Southern Alaska Peninsula
39 Herd.

40
41 So last year we harvested 7 caribou
42 total and we did have a quota of 75 bull caribou
43 permits split up between the communities of Cold Bay,
44 False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.
45 This year there is no quota. It's as many permits as
46 people want.

47
48 I mentioned yesterday I think the most
49 important part of the Federal Subsistence Program for
50

1 us right now is that we have the designated hunter
2 program, which does allow for hunters to provide meat
3 on the table for folks that can't get out for whatever
4 reason. So that is a good important part of the
5 Federal Subsistence Program.

6
7 The State harvest last year was a total
8 of 40 caribou, so we actually only harvested 47 caribou
9 that we know of in the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd.
10 As you've heard, the population is growing and there is
11 some concern that we might quickly reach the carrying
12 capacity and outstrip the vegetation here to support
13 the herd. So we are in support of Fish and Game's
14 adaptive management program to increase the harvest bag
15 limit if possible. So that's all going real well.

16
17 The survey information we talked about
18 it very briefly yesterday as well. We did not do a
19 winter count. We typically do that, but without a
20 biologist that didn't get done and some other personnel
21 things were going on. The State did their survey and
22 we've relied heavily on their information for many
23 years.

24
25 I don't want to steal Chris Peterson's
26 thunder, but she'll be giving some information
27 specifically about Unimak. I'll just briefly mention
28 the numbers corresponding to the two herds here. The
29 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd. They did a sample
30 survey, observed 1,442 caribou, which included 757
31 cows, 291 calves, 374 bulls, which came up with a
32 bull/cow ratio of 49 bulls per 100 cows, which is very
33 very good. A pretty decent calf/cow ratio of 38 calves
34 per 100 cows.

35
36 Similarly, the Unimak Island Herd is
37 growing. It's a different situation there and I will
38 definitely leave most of this to Chris because she's
39 more knowledgeable and has been here much longer than I
40 have. During the flights in October 258 caribou were
41 classified, which included 149 cows, 60 calves and 49
42 bulls, giving a bull/cow ratio of 32 to 100 cows and a
43 calf/cow ratio of 40 calves to 100 cows. So the
44 population is doing well. It is a smaller herd. Like
45 I said, I'll let Chris give more information about that
46 when we get into that discussion.

47
48 One of the most important work that we
49 do here has to do with the waterfowl population. I
50

1 mean this Refuge was founded in 1960 primarily for the
2 Izembek Lagoon and the complex of lagoons in the area
3 and bays. This Refuge has been doing Brant age ratio
4 surveys for many years. Last year we changed it up a
5 little bit.

6
7 Instead of using two people and doing
8 the survey over a period of weeks we reduced it down to
9 a five to seven day period where we had 10 biologists
10 out trying to get observations of groups of Brant to
11 classify them as juveniles or adults. It's an
12 important tool for us and it's part of what we use to
13 manage the harvest and set the harvest limits, the bag
14 limit, that sort of thing.

15
16 Last year in about a six-day period the
17 percentage of juveniles in the population was estimated
18 to be 17.1 percent compared to 2015 that was 12.9
19 percent. The population is still doing well. There's
20 some things that people have been theorizing about
21 what's going on. I'll mention some of this because
22 it's kind of interesting.

23
24 I didn't put it all in my report, but
25 more and more birds are wintering on Izembek Lagoon,
26 but we're finding that most of those birds are now
27 coming from the Arctic. They're not coming from Yukon
28 Delta anymore, which was the traditional nesting
29 location of the Brant.

30
31 The theory or suggestion is the climate
32 is changing enough that it's producing a much better
33 nesting habitat area with virtually unlimited food
34 supplies up in the Arctic. Through isotope analysis we
35 know that the birds that are coming here and wintering
36 in Cold Bay are coming mostly from the Arctic now. So
37 I found that to be very interesting.

38
39 On Page 5 you can see the index for
40 productivity for those juvenile Brant. The population
41 is doing well. That takes me to the very important
42 fall population survey that is done by migratory birds
43 here. Every fall they fly and they count Brant,
44 Cackling Geese, Emperor Geese, Steller's Eider, a
45 variety of waterfowl species and come up with a trend
46 count if you will and we compare that from year to year
47 to gauge the health of the population and productivity.

48
49 Last fall we had the highest count ever
50

1 of Pacific Brant at Izembek. Over 200,000 birds were
2 counted. That's the highest all-time record. In fact
3 it was 33 percent higher than the long-term average of
4 about 137,000 birds. It was also up from 2015 by 21
5 percent. In 2015 the count was 160,700 birds.

6
7 I'm going to allow you to read through
8 some of the other survey information on your own
9 because there's a lot of information there, but it was
10 important for me to learn too what's going on and I
11 think it will be helpful for you folks to have that
12 information right there in front of you easy to access
13 if you need it.

14
15 I will go on and mention the midwinter
16 population count before we leave the Brant. As I
17 mentioned earlier, more and more birds are staying on
18 the Lagoon all winter long as a result of the Lagoon
19 not freezing. Apparently they know what's going on and
20 they have gauged within themselves, an intrinsic thing,
21 nobody really knows how this happens, but they are
22 finding adequate amounts of food in the Lagoon, so
23 they're not migrating south in the winter. They're
24 actually overwintering here.

25
26 We seem to have plateaued around 45,000
27 birds since 2011. That is generally the number of birds
28 that have been wintering on the Izembek Lagoon. We had
29 a few more the year before, probably closer to 55,000.
30 Compared to the long-term average, the midwinter count
31 has only been around 18,500 birds. So more and more
32 birds are staying here and then just leaving and going
33 directly north to their new breeding grounds
34 essentially in the Arctic. So I found that to be very
35 interesting.

36
37 The next thing I'd like to talk about
38 briefly is some of the research projects that are going
39 on here with help primarily from the U.S. Geological
40 Survey. For several years now we've been doing avian
41 influenza and blood parasite studies with USGS Ty
42 Donnelly. He usually comes and he spends two months
43 here, September and October, and he takes samples from
44 hunter-harvested birds, usually about 1,000 birds in
45 his sample, to see if the avian influenza is showing up
46 here or what's going on.

47
48 I did find a report Andy Ramey and
49 three other researchers from USGS were here this fall
50

1 doing some studies and the results of some of their
2 work was published just in 2016 in a journal called
3 Infection, Genetics and Evolution. Essentially what
4 they found was that there are some viruses in the
5 populations here contain a common ancestry with H5N1
6 and H5N2, but they actually have not found those
7 viruses here.

8
9 So apparently there's interchange --
10 these viruses change over time, so we're seeing some
11 evidence of those viruses or other viruses here, but we
12 haven't actually found the H5N1 or N2 in our population
13 here.

14
15 We did do our Tundra Swan survey this
16 year. Not much to report there. Not real much change
17 from previous years. We counted a total of 735 swans
18 and 11 nests. The nests are just sort of aside to the
19 actual swan count. We do it in two units, the Izembek
20 and the Pavlof Units and essentially there's not much
21 change there. I'll let you look at the numbers.

22
23 I will point out on Page 9 and 10 I did
24 put in a couple of figures this year that showed where
25 those swans occurred. I know Pat had asked last year
26 where are you seeing these birds, where are they
27 nesting, so I decided to put these figures in from the
28 actual surveys so you can see where the birds were
29 observed during surveys. Those are Figures 3A and 4A.

30
31 I was happy that we were able to get
32 our brown bear survey done before you came and I
33 hurried up and added it to the report before I took off
34 for my moose hunt. We do a trend survey here too
35 essentially flying those areas where bears are easily
36 observed in association with salmon spawning streams.
37 We start up around Joshua Green and we work our way
38 down through the Izembek Lagoon complex and end up over
39 on Unimak Island. It usually takes us about five or
40 six days.

41
42 This year we observed 281 bears. We
43 usually see about 300 bears on this survey and classify
44 them. Not a whole lot of change. I think Nate Svoboda
45 pointed out that it's really hard to enumerate or
46 census an entire bear population, so we don't even
47 attempt to do that. But from our information it's
48 clear that the bear population here is very good and
49 extremely productive. I think Nate was saying that the

50

1 average litter size was 2.9 and without doing any real
2 statistical analysis I would definitely agree. It's
3 probably close to three bears, three cubs here as well.

4
5 In the Izembek Unit there were 46
6 single bears observed on the flight and 32 sows
7 accompanied by cubs. Of the cubs, 33 were cubs of the
8 year, 32 yearlings. I thought it was a little
9 interesting that there was only one 2-1/2 year old cub
10 observed in the Izembek area because personally, just
11 driving around, I've seen a lot more 2-1/2 year old
12 cubs than that. It's just kind of a chance thing.
13 Like Nate was saying, it's a snapshot. That one moment
14 in time when you happen to go out and you see what you
15 see. It's by no means a census. It's just kind of a
16 trend count.

17
18 Unimak Island, 137 bears were observed,
19 which included 43 singles, 21 sows with cubs and of
20 those cubs 19 were cubs of the year, 28 yearlings and
21 26 2-1/2 year olds, which seemed much more normal to
22 me. Anyway, I did make a note in there about the
23 single bears. I wouldn't put a whole lot of stock in
24 it having any particular meaning.

25
26 On the Izembek Unit where we have a
27 much greater harvest Unit 9D, the actual number of
28 single bears increased slightly from the previous year
29 5 percent. The Unimak Island number of single bears
30 actually decreased by 27 percent, which I have no idea
31 what that means. It doesn't really mean anything I
32 don't think.

33
34 The harvest is far greater on the
35 Izembek Unit and Unit 9D and I'll talk about that a
36 little bit. That was something I hadn't seen in our
37 previous reports and I was very interested in it. If
38 you move on to Page 13, I talk a little bit about brown
39 bear harvest. This information is from Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game, our good partners, and
41 Dave Crowley sent this information to me when I asked
42 for it.

43
44 Just briefly, in Unit 9D -- we have an
45 every other year harvest season basically. We have a
46 fall season in the odd numbered years, so we have a
47 fall hunt this year, October 1 to October 21, and then
48 we'll have a hunt in May from May 10 to May 31 next
49 year on the even-numbered years. It's interesting to me

50

1 that from 1988, on Pages 14 and 15, we typically
2 harvest on average of about 130 bears a year during the
3 odd-numbered year hunt in the fall but only like 9 or
4 10 bears in the spring.

5
6 So it has something to do with the
7 availability and observability of bears. They're just
8 a lot easier to find in the fall. They're either still
9 down on the salmon streams or they're up out in the
10 open feeding on berries, which I do want to talk about
11 the berry thing. We've had a big berry die-off. Very
12 few berries here this year as well.

13
14 Anyway, I found it very interesting
15 that people are taking most of the bears in the fall
16 and very few in the springtime. Also along with that
17 81 percent of the harvest in Unit 9D are by
18 nonresidents, so those people are being taken out by
19 outfitters and guides.

20
21 In contrast, on Unimak Island Unit 10,
22 that's an every year hunt but it is a draw hunt, so you
23 have to apply and typically only 9 or 10 bears are
24 harvested during that hunt. Approximately 37 percent
25 of those taken are by nonresident hunters. So there's
26 a lot more Alaska residents that put in for that Unimak
27 hunt. It is a unique hunt and I would say overall you
28 might see a few more larger bears, say 9.5-footers or
29 whatever. More like Kodiak because it is a closely-
30 monitored hunt for trophies, but there's plenty of big
31 ones out here too as well.

32
33 Just a couple of other projects that I
34 want to talk about that are quite important to the
35 Refuge. One is our water temperature monitoring
36 project. I start talking about that a little bit on
37 Page 15, but on Page 16 there is a figure of where we
38 have our water temperature monitoring sites. Currently
39 we have 24 sites.

40
41 We started this project about three
42 years ago and it's important for us because we're
43 collecting baseline information about what's going on
44 here at Izembek during a period of great transition.
45 This project is actually not just taking place here.
46 We're doing projects just like this in other Refuges in
47 Alaska and actually it's a nationwide effort. So
48 similar work is being done across the nation to monitor
49 climate change

50

1 What we're finding is that water
2 temperatures are warming up. Basically we go out and
3 we set up -- we put what are called
4 data-loggers in containers made out of PVC and we jam
5 them into the ground and if we're lucky the bears
6 haven't pulled them out by the next year we'll go back
7 and we pull those out of ground, we download the data
8 and while we're there we also take some additional
9 information down about stream water velocity and
10 discharge. We measure pH, dissolved oxygen,
11 conductivity, those kinds of things, so we get a lot of
12 good information.

13
14 In doing the study I want to thank the
15 Water Resources Branch, Meg Perdue in particular, for
16 coming out this year and leading that study up without
17 a biologist here. She did a great job and offered some
18 good ideas for improvement. Basically that has to do
19 with the difficulty of keeping these things up and
20 running. Our biggest problem has been brown bears
21 finding them and jerking them out of the ground or
22 chewing them up. We lost a number of those. Well,
23 each year we've lost a number of them.

24
25 The other thing that has happened a few
26 times is some of the data-loggers have been lost due to
27 flooding events. So we're learning a little bit better
28 where to put them. You know, you don't put them in a
29 braided stream that just gets major amounts of debris
30 and water coming down. We're still pursuing this
31 project because we think it's worthwhile. We've gained
32 some good information from it and I'm sure we're going
33 to see some more changes in the future as we move
34 forward.

35
36 I don't think I mentioned this, but as
37 an example we have another project which I didn't even
38 put in this report with UAF and the SeaLife Center.
39 They have been doing some water monitoring themselves
40 for us, with us, out in Izembek Lagoon
41 and the bay here. The water temperature in Izembek
42 Lagoon was 10 degrees warmer than it's been at any time
43 in the past last year. As a result, we're seeing some
44 things that we're starting to wonder what's going to
45 happen. There may be some concerns, but what you can
46 do about it I don't know.

47
48 That takes me to the eelgrass studies
49 we've been doing. These have actually been ongoing
50

1 since the 1960s, so we're looking at abundance of
2 productivity. This year we also started to look at
3 some of the pathogens that are starting to show up in
4 the eelgrass as a result probably of changes in water
5 temperature and other things. We're finding some of
6 the eelgrass is dying out in areas. Other places it's
7 increasing. The plants themselves are changing.

8
9 Typically since the '60s I spoke with
10 one of the earlier biologists, Peter. I can't think of
11 his last name right now. He lives down in Valdez. He
12 said the plants have changed a lot since he started
13 first coming here. The plants are not shorter-leaved
14 and wider-leaved. He believes that it's due primarily
15 to the increased number of sunny days and they're able
16 to photosynthesize more efficiently by changing.

17
18 We are concerned that we may have some
19 potential diseases showing up as a result of seeing
20 some of the plants die off, so we did initiate a study
21 with folks in our regional office and USGS to look at
22 the presence of pathogenic organisms in our eelgrass
23 here in the Lagoon.

24
25 In the past, just as an example, there
26 were some major die-offs along the Atlantic Coast in
27 the '30s as a result of these same kind of pathogens
28 that have showed up. And another one where they were
29 doing studies in Europe discovered that the pathogen
30 reduced the sea germination of the eelgrass by six
31 times. So things could happen, we don't know, but we
32 are trying to monitor that.

33
34 The other thing that we've kept up with
35 here at the Refuge is our marine mammal surveys. We
36 don't really have a really big program yet set up for
37 that, but we do have 10 remote trail cameras set up at
38 some specific locations on Unimak Island and the
39 Izembek Lagoon where walrus and sea lions have been
40 hauling up. As you probably recall, three or four
41 years ago we didn't have any walrus or sea lions here.
42 So it is kind of neat to see this. We've seen as many
43 as 2,000 walrus hauled up in Uralic Bay and two to
44 three hundred sea lions hauled up in different places.

45
46 We had a group of NOAA marine mammal
47 biologists who have been coming now for a couple years
48 looking at seals. Seals have traditionally hauled up
49 on Amak Island out here just outside of Izembek Lagoon.

50

1 It was a real windy day and they went out and flew and
2 they noted when they came back -- I always check with
3 them how did things go, what did you see, and they said
4 there were no seals on Amak Island, but the leeward
5 side of the island out of the wind was packed with sea
6 lions.

7
8 So the sea lions are chasing the seals
9 off. It's easy to tell them apart. The other
10 interesting thing was that the sea lions are real
11 climbers, their flippers are much more mobile and they
12 can climb way up into the rocks, so that's what they
13 were doing to get out of the wind, but they were
14 keeping the seals out of a traditional haul-out site.

15
16 So that's most of the biology that I
17 wanted to go through with you folks today. I will
18 mention that we made an effort to do a little bit more
19 in the villages. I hired three interns this year.
20 Unfortunately I had to let one of them go.

21
22 The other one that I didn't want to
23 leave, Charlie Musser, has decided to leave on his own,
24 but while he was here he did participate in the culture
25 camp at Sand Point and King Cove and he did a really
26 nice job of writing up his experience there. So I put
27 it in the report at the end and put in a few
28 photographs that he had given to me for your reading
29 pleasure. I really like the way Charlie writes. We
30 were members of a little writing club here in Cold Bay,
31 so I was sad to see him leave, but he's moved on. He's
32 actually down in Puerto Rico studying sloths right now.

33
34 One of the things that we did -- he's a
35 cultural anthropologist and, doggone it, we let him
36 participate in some of these other activities. So he
37 did the walrus and sea lion surveys over on Unimak
38 Island and he helped with the bear survey. He said
39 I've learned one thing about being here. He said I
40 want to be a biologist. So he's off doing biology now
41 and we were sad to see him leave.

42
43 But my goal is -- the funding is still
44 available through the Student Conservation Association
45 and I'm going to try to refill that position and get
46 somebody back in that position. I think it's really
47 important. It's something that I've wanted to do since
48 I've been here and I know the Fish and Wildlife Service
49 has wished to do something where we could get out into
50

1 the villages more frequently, participate in culture
2 camps.

3
4 I would like to get somebody here next
5 month if I can. I couldn't get to it this month, but
6 next month -- and they're standing by at SCA with some
7 interested applicants and I'd like to get that person
8 onboard and trained up and get all the -- you know,
9 there's a lot of effort that goes into getting even
10 seasonals onboard. I think there's 14 different
11 application documents you have to complete just to get
12 an SCA intern here.

13
14 Hopefully we'll have somebody here
15 within a month or two and they'll be able to go to the
16 schools and the villages and share some of what we do
17 and participate in village life. So that's something
18 that I really want to get done and I will be working
19 toward that come next month.

20
21 So any questions.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any Council
24 members.

25
26 Rebecca.

27
28 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I had two questions
29 in your report.

30
31 On Page 7, and this is in regards to
32 the Emperor geese at the very top of the page there's a
33 note that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta nest plot survey
34 suggested that the Emperor geese produced low numbers
35 of eggs, had low nest success and low clutch sizes, and
36 I guess first of all, is that from work in September of
37 2016 or was that from work in 2017 and then can you
38 give any more context or information about that.

39
40 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, through the Chair.
41 That information is actually put together by our
42 Migratory Bird Division, and that data was from 2016 so
43 I don't have any 2017 data. So they do this annual
44 nest plot survey out in the Yukon Delta and they are
45 finding that things are changing there. Like I said,
46 the birds that are, well, in this case we're talking
47 about Emperor geese but birds are going elsewhere.
48 They're doing different things. So what's going on
49 there I don't -- there was nothing in the report that
50

1 we got from Mig Birds that stated why. You could guess
2 what possibly has gone on, you know, cold wet spring,
3 lack of insects, who knows.

4
5 I have all the reports where this
6 information came from if you're interested in any of
7 that.

8
9 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And
10 then my second question, in regards to the water
11 temperature monitoring of the fresh water streams, and
12 I understand it's to create a baseline and see if we
13 see climate effects, but what -- then what? So say we
14 have this data and we say, oh, there's climate effects,
15 what will we do with this data or how does it help us
16 in kind of practical terms?

17
18 MR. RISDAHL: That's a good question,
19 Rebecca.

20
21 So biologists like to collect baseline
22 data because it gives you somewhere to start from and
23 if you don't know what you got at the beginning you
24 can't -- you really don't know how you got where you
25 become. So in this case there's a lot of information
26 out there that we don't have and we're collecting that
27 now and it gives us the ability to say, oh, yeah, this
28 is happening as a result of a warming climate or lack
29 of snow cover. You know we had a huge crow berry die-
30 off this last winter here and I mentioned it to some
31 biologist and everyone I've talked to said, oh,
32 yeah, that's happened where we come from, up and down
33 the Alaska Peninsula and out on the Aleutians, what was
34 going on, you know, I thought maybe this was a normal
35 thing but I saw how long it was taking for the crow
36 berry to recover. Without documenting that you just
37 don't know what's going to happen.

38
39 Along with that, as an example, from
40 right at our office over to my house, it's probably 50
41 yards, the crow berry died there as well, but the most
42 interesting things that I noticed is that there are
43 willow plants, three different species that I can see
44 growing up between, you know, within the crow berry;
45 where did it come from. You know, obviously the seed
46 bed is there but it's taken certain conditions to be
47 just right for those willows to suddenly germinate and
48 start to grow. I mean if this continues on the path
49 that it appears as though it will, it'll be very

50

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1 similar to what's happened in the Interior of Alaska
2 where the birch and willow distribution has continued
3 to advance north and west and along with that the moose
4 herds have grown and increased. So people that used to
5 harvest caribou for subsistence on an annual basis are
6 now all harvesting moose because it's better moose
7 habitat. And I can just imagine that same kind of
8 thing happening here with the changes that we're
9 seeing.

10
11 So that baseline information is really
12 important to know where you came from and then you can
13 say, oh, well, this has what's happened and had you not
14 collected that information you wouldn't have any idea
15 how you got to where you were.

16
17 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Greg, can you
22 tell me why we didn't get a winter survey done on the
23 Unimak herd?

24
25 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, through the Chair.
26 Like I said, our biologist -- our head biologist,
27 Stacy, she left actually the very beginning of January
28 right prior to the big shuffle with the new
29 Administration coming in. Everybody knew that jobs
30 were -- nobody was going to be hiring anybody and so
31 the Fish and Wildlife Service, like some of the other
32 Federal civilian agencies tried to get people moved
33 around as quickly as they could. Stacy had an
34 opportunity -- she had been here for about six years
35 and she was looking to do something different and so
36 she took that position, a position in Hawaii. And then
37 Chris -- I had already given Chris permission to do a
38 detail down in Guam, so he was gone for two months
39 helping Fish and Wildlife Service in Guam and when he
40 came back, actually that was just prior to the Kodiak
41 meeting and Chris joined me at the meeting, the RAC
42 meeting in Kodiak, and after that he decided that he
43 was -- living in Cold Bay was just too difficult for
44 him and so we've worked with him to find him a new
45 home. He was a good biologist, no complaints about his
46 work, but he's now transferred officially down to a
47 Refuge down in Washington State.

48
49 So we didn't have a biologist here.

50

1
2 And just without somebody around to do
3 it, we just couldn't get it done. And that was prior
4 to getting the interns brought on board, so, hopefully
5 that will answer your question.
6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: It answers my question
8 but it doesn't do anything for me. And I'll just tell
9 you, it makes my blood boil, because for the first
10 several years I sat on this Council that's exactly what
11 we got from US Fish and Wildlife was excuses. For
12 several years we didn't get those surveys. We have a
13 responsibility to provide subsistence for the people
14 who live out here, it's hard for us to do that without
15 those reports. And so I'm just telling you, to me,
16 that's a number 1 priority, that we get those reports.
17 And it's just -- an excuse is just not acceptable to
18 me. We had assurances from your leaders and directors
19 that we would get those reports. And so for us not to
20 get them, to me, is just not acceptable.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 MR. RISDAHL: Through the Chair. You
25 know, I appreciate your comment and respect that and
26 we'll do the best that we can.
27

28 I think I mentioned earlier, I have
29 been pushing very hard to get a biologist brought back
30 here and my boss and I talked on Monday and he said, I
31 assure you that the biologist at Izembek is the highest
32 priority position to be refilled from all the southern
33 Refuges. So there's eight Refuges under my boss'
34 authority and he's assured me that we are going to get
35 a biologist here. I've already completed the paperwork
36 for both the GS-11 and GS-9 biologist and it's been
37 sitting on my desk for months in my to-go file, but
38 until we're given the authority to even submit a waiver
39 -- we have to submit a waiver to have positions filled
40 and it has to go all the way to Washington, D.C.,
41 before we're given permission to fill any positions.
42

43 As you can see we get a lot of help
44 from a lot of people. For instance the eel grass
45 monitoring and the Brant age ratio monitoring. I've
46 asked biologists -- or the water monitoring project --
47 I've asked water resources branch, I begged them to
48 send a biologist out here to help us with that. David
49 Ward from the USGS has offered his help to lead the
50

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1 Brant age ratio survey that they'll be starting soon.
2 So a lot of people have stepped forward to help us.
3 But with a Staff of four people here it's just very
4 difficult to get everything done and we're paying for
5 that, you know, we are paying people -- we're flying
6 them out here to stay, we're paying their per diem, so
7 it's not like we're not making the effort, we really
8 truly are. And it's important to us as well.

9
10 And fortunately in the case of the
11 Unimak and Southern Alaska Caribou Herds we have the
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as an ally and a
13 partner and they did do their recruitment surveys and
14 so we do have good information about the population, we
15 just didn't get the minimum winter count done this
16 year. And there's been other years, if you'll look
17 back at the tables you'll see that there's other years
18 that some of those surveys didn't get done, too,
19 whatever the reasons were, I don't know, I wasn't here,
20 but we do our best and sometimes it's a weather-related
21 situation that you just can't get to some of those
22 surveys as well. But we will continue to do our best.

23
24 I appreciate the comment.

25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Greg.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, is
33 that Rick or Pat.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: I will try and keep my
40 comments brief and I believe if it's okay with you and
41 Karen I'll probably write most of them down and then
42 send them to you and Karen.

43
44 I wasn't going to say anything but I
45 would like to comment on Tom's thoughts.

46
47 We have, in, I don't know how many
48 years I've been on, close to 20 now, but we've had
49 assurances from every single Refuge -- the head of
50

1 Refuges, the head of Fish and Wildlife Service that
2 your programs for Unimak would be the priority and most
3 of those blanks came up with the same thing; we didn't
4 have a person, we didn't have a plane, the plane needed
5 it's 100 hour, all those things were known in advance.
6 And you've done the best job, I think, Greg, on trying
7 to answer our questions and try to get things done so
8 it's not really a reflection on you, but it's a
9 reflection on the whole operation. You don't need a
10 biologist to count caribou. I know Glenn Devenport,
11 when he was the salmon guy out there, the salmon guy at
12 Cold Bay, he would count caribou and moose when the
13 moose started showing up out there and relay the data.
14 And I find it, your agency deplorable, that you can get
15 10 people to count Brant but you can't get one person
16 to do caribou. You're counting marine mammals within
17 five miles or 10 miles of where the calving grounds are
18 on the north end of Unimak Island.

19
20 And also, you know, we've talked, our
21 Council has asked every single manager to why don't you
22 contact the Coast Guard for a machine of opportunity
23 and it's never happened and so we have a lot of
24 exasperation with your shop, not necessarily with you,
25 you do a good job, but those counts need to be done and
26 if nothing else, maybe we need to have some -- develop
27 some capacity building with the local tribes out there,
28 Aleutians East Borough and just charter Steve Harvey,
29 retired Fish and Game pilot that was a commercial
30 pilot, charter pilot out there for close to 50 years,
31 hire him to come down, he'll get them counted. It's
32 just so important.

33
34 And then the big question that I've
35 asked several times is why a winter count. Some of the
36 Refuges up in Northwest do spring counts because that's
37 when you get the whole herd congregated and you can
38 have better options on weather and so it's counting the
39 critters, not the time -- or not the person or the
40 biologist.

41
42 So that's our exasperation, and I'll be
43 quiet Madame Chair, thank you, and good luck Greg.

44
45 MR. RISDAHL: Well, thank you, Pat, I
46 appreciate your comments, too, and they're taken to
47 heart and we'll just do the best that we can, that's
48 all I can offer at this point.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

4
5 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick,
8 and then Coral had a comment and then Tom.

9
10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Greg, thanks for the
11 great report there, I thought that was a good report.
12 I guess, you know, most of the Board members still feel
13 like we're getting short cut on the Unimak but we'll
14 keep working on it.

15
16 The question I had, I guess, I know the
17 caribou is still way down and I don't expect any hunt
18 down there, the question I had are those caribou the
19 same caribou as 9D; is that correct?

20
21 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, through the Chair,
22 Rick. Genetically they are the same caribou. And we
23 have seen caribou swimming back and forth, so, yeah,
24 technically they are the same herd. They probably --
25 the ones that are on Unimak probably tend to just stay
26 on Unimak most of the time. We haven't seen a lot of
27 interchange back and forth between the island and the
28 Peninsula but they are definitely the same herd.

29
30 MR. KOSO: Okay. And as far as the
31 wolf population goes, I guess you probably wouldn't
32 know that because you didn't get a chance to do the
33 survey, but did the State do a wolf count while they
34 were doing caribou?

35
36 MR. RISDAHL: Through the Chair.
37 Actually in conversation with Dave Crowley, I believe
38 he said they did not see a single wolf when they flew
39 that Unimak flight. So apparently they don't know
40 where they went to or maybe they just took off because
41 the caribou numbers were low, who knows, but what Dave
42 told me -- but maybe he can give you more of an update
43 or Chris, but I'm pretty sure he told me they did not
44 see a single wolf when they flew Unimak.

45
46 MR. KOSO: I just have one more quick
47 question. How about the moose in the 9D area, were you
48 able to see any moose in that area?

49
50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Through the Chair. Yeah,
2 Rick, actually our pilot, Ken Richardson, he has
3 mentioned seeing moose periodically when they've been
4 flying over there for various different purposes so I
5 don't really have a handle on what the population might
6 be. From the sound of it, folks in King Cove have been
7 keeping an eye on a cow and a calf and a bull or
8 something, you know, so they've regularly seen a few
9 individuals but it doesn't sound like there's a big
10 population there. We have not been monitoring it.

11
12 MR. KOSO: Okay, thanks, Greg.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I was
17 interested in, we have the Emperor goose subsistence
18 hunt in the spring, did you hear of anybody taking
19 birds?

20
21 MR. RISDAHL: That's a very good
22 question, Coral. Through the Chair. You know, I think
23 the only guy that really went after birds in spring in
24 Cold Bay was Matt, and he tries to get about 80 Brant a
25 year to fill the freezer but honestly Cold Bay doesn't
26 have a lot of subsistence users, if you will, not
27 technically. People all go after their salmon, a few
28 people try to get caribou but there's not a lot of egg
29 gathering or bird hunting in the spring that I have
30 seen here in Cold Bay in the short time that I've been
31 here. So I don't have a good handle on -- honestly I
32 don't think hardly any birds were taken here in the
33 spring as far as Emperor geese goes.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

38
39 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I just want to
40 point out for the record that during the last 10 years
41 we've only had four years where we've actually had that
42 winter count so 60 percent of the time we're not
43 getting it and to me that's just not acceptable.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Now,
48 it's my turn.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And some of my
4 people left here that I did want to ask to speak but of
5 course it is lunch time.

6

7 The issue on the caribou counts is high
8 priority, as you've well heard from the Council
9 members. But one of the things that adds to the
10 problem of not being able to get those counts done,
11 weather being one, which is something we put up with --
12 we live with it and we work around it as much as we
13 can. However, the other issue has been the lack of
14 Staffing or the biologist. Stacy was here, tremendous
15 support and liking of Stacy in all the communities
16 she's dealt with, I've never heard a more positive
17 interaction with people than I have about Stacy in
18 Izembek Refuge in all my life of being associated with
19 it. Recently Charlie was in King Cove in the culture
20 camp and we had hoped that him, and I can't recall the
21 young lady's name that was with him, could have stayed
22 for the Eddie Mack Scholarship Fund, just, you know,
23 the ability to understand the community of King Cove
24 more as one of the communities within the Izembek
25 region. The concern that I have and has been voiced to
26 me is basically the turnover of the Staff at Izembek
27 and I'm not sure what the answer to that is but it does
28 reflect on the ability to do some of the stuff that
29 needs to be done so we can all make really good
30 decisions.

31

32 Cold Bay is unique, in the fact that
33 you have your subsistence users and there are
34 subsistence users. You have the sports hunters, you
35 have the -- just about every government agency you can
36 think of is sitting right in this community and it's a
37 mixed bag, it's a big -- you know and then you add our
38 outlying communities to that mix and there is a lot
39 there, and not having Staff to be able to do that, you
40 know, one of the things that I've heard was the issue
41 even with enforcement and exactly what that means, and
42 to what degree I'm not sure, and I'll try to get more
43 information on that. And, Greg, will let you know that
44 I am very up front in telling him if I hear a concern
45 or complaint, I do get to him directly. He probably
46 wishes some days that, oh, no, there's Della.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But I thank him
2 for taking, you know, being willing to try to work with
3 us. Because I cannot stress how important it is and
4 God help me as long as I'm involved with this you will
5 hear it all the time. And I can't -- and being a part
6 of this process for 20 years, there's got to be better
7 improvements and relations. You know I'm going to
8 retire and come over here and then I'll be your worst
9 nightmare, trust me.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- yeah, we've
14 got to -- and I'll do whatever I can to help with that,
15 I'm willing to do whatever I can.

16
17 The other thing is the swans. You
18 mentioned the number of swans in that population, I had
19 marked, I believe it was 800 for the Peninsula and --
20 this area and then Pavlof area but in some of our
21 discussions we talked about this being a population
22 that basically stays in this area so it's not part of
23 the migratory bird as far as harvest. Is there any
24 documentation somewhere that basically shows or says
25 that we want the population to be at this level or what
26 exactly is there available on swans.

27
28 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Number 1,
29 I want to say how much I appreciate working with you.
30 I do enjoy my time with you and I really respect your
31 efforts and your honesty. And I will -- before I talk
32 about the swans, I totally commiserate with you on the
33 whole Staffing issue. When I first was hired to come
34 up here to Izembek, I sat down with my boss, Ronnie
35 Sanchez and the Refuge Chief, Mitch Ellis, and they
36 said what are you going to do in Izembek and said my
37 number 1 priority is to try to get some Staff that want
38 to stay here and number 2, to work with the surrounding
39 villages. Those are my one and two priorities. And
40 it's obviously been a struggle and all I can say is
41 it's hard to get people to come out to some of these
42 places. You know, for instance I'm a married, I'm a
43 husband and a father and I have two younger kids in
44 Anchorage with my wife, they can't live here without a
45 school, my wife needs access to businesses for her
46 work. Ken Richardson, his wife lives in Idaho. Our
47 maintenance mechanic, his wife is still in Texas. You
48 know it's just changing times, it's hard to find people
49 that are willing and want to live in these places. I'm
50

1 totally fine. I'm a little worried about my family
2 now, personally, but I tell everybody I'm like the zen
3 Refuge manager, I love the peace and quiet out here,
4 this suits me perfectly well, but I do have a family
5 650 miles away and the kids are going when is dad
6 coming home, you know. And my wife is like, you know,
7 the kids kind of need you, you need to come home more
8 often and I'm like, well, you know, I don't want to
9 spend \$1,000 every month to go back and forth and so I
10 spend most of my time here. It's just difficult. And
11 like with Chris, I don't know what to tell you, the kid
12 was doing a great job, and excellent writer and I could
13 have used him but he decided, you know, he said I just
14 can't live here, he said there's just -- my girlfriend
15 is in California and my family is on the East Coast and
16 he says, I just can't -- I just can't live here. What
17 do you do? You know so you try to accommodate, you
18 give those people an opportunity, you don't want to
19 lose them as an employee but to get good people to come
20 and live in these places is becoming more difficult.
21 And apparently it's been an ongoing issue in Izembek
22 for a long time.

23
24 I don't know how to change that.

25
26 My boss' and I, we talked a little bit,
27 and I know they have talked within amongst themselves
28 that there must be some other kinds of incentives they
29 can offer people to come and live out here. You know,
30 for instance, pay our way back and forth from Anchorage
31 once or month or something, but nothing has happened,
32 you know, we don't have any of those incentives. So
33 people just -- either they like it and they live here
34 or they try it out and they move on.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Greg, if I'm not
37 here and I leave this afternoon, Council, do add that
38 to the annual report, the retention of Staff at
39 Izembek.

40
41 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chairman to answer
42 your question about the swans, of course this program
43 was set up before I got here. I don't know the answer,
44 what kind of information is available that gives the
45 history of why we don't have a hunting season. From
46 what I recall, though, it is considered a unique
47 population because it doesn't really migrate. I don't
48 honestly know that much about it other than the survey
49 information but I will look into it. And, you know,
50

1 because it is considered still a migratory bird it
2 would still be handled under the Migratory Bird
3 Division and they would make a season if there was
4 interest, you know, that would be their purview. The
5 Refuge and local input could help in that. But at the
6 moment, you know, until somebody says something, says,
7 hey we want to harvest some of these swans nothing will
8 happen. But if you guys are interested or local folks
9 are interested in having a small harvest on the swans
10 there's no reason we couldn't talk to Julian Fischer,
11 for instance, at Migratory Birds and say, hey, what do
12 we need to do.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Personally I
15 think 900-some birds is not a big population, you know,
16 but the question has been asked to me on a number of
17 occasions so I'd like to just get that out there, you
18 know, any more information we can get on that would be
19 helpful.

20
21 And I think the other thing that I
22 heard, unfortunately, is having to do with birds and it
23 had to do with ptarmigan with sport hunters using the
24 wrong rifle and shooting ptarmigan and that it's
25 basically mush. You can't pick up the bird it's swiss
26 cheese, I mean it's full of holes. And subsistence
27 users and hunters, you know, when we go out and shoot
28 animals, we do it to eat and it's basically -- and it's
29 hard for -- and this came from people in Cold Bay, the
30 residents in Cold Bay, for them to see that because
31 they're also subsistence users too. So it's something,
32 I think, and the ways of enforcement from State, Fish
33 and Wildlife, you know, I recommend -- I heard -- you
34 know, I had a number of people talk to me in the
35 community and the community of Cold Bay is small and
36 unfortunately they don't want to get into these things
37 where these people are mad at me or this group is mad
38 at me because it's just such a small community so I've
39 always told people, if you've got concerns, do come to
40 me and as I mentioned to you concerns before without
41 names, they're valid and I'd like to protect the
42 people, they have to live here, but one of the
43 recommendations is -- and Angela had left, is the city
44 administrator, you know, every now and then they have
45 these open door potlucks over in this building for
46 people just to get together if they're planning
47 something, I think it's a good opportunity for people
48 that work here, not only from the Refuge, or if you're
49 here from the State, you know, come listen to the
50

1 people and what they have to say. It's more of an
2 informal way to do that. But just a suggestion.

3
4 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Madame Chair
5 for that thought and recommendation. I have been
6 trying to go to the Council meetings and I actually
7 even considered putting my hat in the -- or in my name
8 in the hat to participate in the Council but my boss
9 told me it would be a conflict of interest so that
10 probably saved me some headaches but I still feel very
11 strongly that we should do what we can to help the
12 community. I try to talk with folks, I've been to some
13 of the potlucks, I went to the last Bingo potluck, they
14 had food and Candice took the opportunity to do a
15 little meeting, which was good, because if you don't
16 offer food nobody comes, so the potlucks are really
17 good for that purpose.

18
19 As far as the ptarmigan goes, and I
20 heard some other folks mention this as well earlier,
21 but our ptarmigan population is way down and honestly I
22 wish people would just leave them alone, especially the
23 ones along the road. The rock ptarmigan are doing
24 better up high because people are too lazy to hike up
25 that high to get them, is part of it is my guess. I am
26 seeing a few small flocks down below of willow
27 ptarmigan but there's not a lot and people tend to, if
28 they see them fly out of the alders or something
29 they're on them. And I will say that this year my time
30 has been short here but the second fall, there is
31 definitely more hunters here this year. Part of that,
32 I believe, is the result of the Emperor goose opening,
33 part of it is the result of the caribou population
34 increasing and the word is starting to get out and
35 people are wanting to come up here and get caribou. Not
36 many caribou around Cold Bay, you got to hunt pretty
37 hard to find them. And the third thing is, is we've
38 had interest by three additional outfitters, guides
39 that want to work here and I did give a special use
40 permit to one. I really didn't have a justification
41 not to. But we have some issues maybe that are arising
42 there, bringing in lots of hunters. I think there's a
43 couple of guys here that are operating not quite
44 legitimately and we do have law enforcement here right
45 now. But, you know, they like to build their cases
46 before they come down on individuals, but there's
47 definitely things going on. Especially the more folks
48 that come in from outside. You know the local people,
49 we don't even have law enforcement here and people are
50

1 very well behaved. I've been completely impressed,
2 people get along, yeah, there's drama in the
3 background, but people get along and they do look out
4 for each other so we don't really have a need for law
5 enforcement except during the hunting season when this
6 influx of people comes in.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Fish and
9 Wildlife is handing out these permits out to guide, do
10 you evaluate those in a year, whether or not they're
11 reissued or is there a deadline on what -- or what?

12
13 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair, that's a
14 very good question. So there are basically two kinds
15 of special use permits that are given out for
16 commercial guiding. One is a competitive permit and the
17 other is a non-competitive permit.

18
19 In Alaska, well, this is pretty much
20 done only in Alaska -- well, they do some of this in
21 the Lower 48 but it's a big program in Alaska, the big
22 game guides, they have to go through what's called --
23 we call it prospectus process, and they have to submit
24 a lot of documentation about their ability to outfit
25 and guide, including their business plan and insurance
26 and all this sort of thing. Typically those
27 applications are about a half an inch to an inch thick.
28 There's a lot of information that goes into those,
29 they're reviewed and analyzed by a whole group of
30 people and eventually it ends up on the Refuge
31 manager's desk and he looks to see what the panel has
32 done in terms of they rank all of the individuals that
33 apply to be a big game guide on the Refuge and
34 eventually the Refuge manager makes a selection based
35 on his review as well as how the panel ranked all the
36 applications. So that's the one type, that's
37 competitive. So in Alaska all big game guides have to
38 apply and compete to be able to get a permit to guide
39 on a Refuge.

40
41 The other type are the non-competitive
42 and those are annual permits, that's what you're
43 asking. So in the case of a waterfowl guide, they have
44 to submit an application every year or a fish guide, or
45 a transporter, they have to apply every single year and
46 I review their application and there's questions in
47 there about like have you committed any wildlife
48 violations in the last five years, if so, what are
49 they. And I always do a background investigation on
50

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1 everybody that submits an application so I know if they
2 have any wildlife violations. So for instance the
3 individual I gave the permit to, he had a clean record.
4 Two other individuals didn't have a clean record and I
5 said you're not going to get a permit. I said, you
6 know, we don't -- you know, I was nice, you know, I was
7 diplomatic.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. RISDAHL: But I said, you know, as
12 it is we have enough local people that are waterfowl
13 hunting and we only have a small area, really, we have
14 access to the Izembek Lagoon, which is the primary
15 hunting location for waterfowl and there's three ways
16 to get to it. And even with the existing three
17 waterfowl guides, now we have four, with the existing
18 three waterfowl guides, I was getting complaints --
19 people were coming and saying, you know, every day no
20 matter what day I go out there's guides out there and
21 they all go to the same places, too, because there's
22 only three access points. So the guides are there from
23 dawn to dusk, maybe they go home for lunch, but they're
24 there every single day from the start of the season to
25 the end of the season so no matter what day a local
26 resident goes out to hunt waterfowl he's going to have
27 to adjust where he goes based on the guides and they
28 all typically take, you know, five guys or more at a
29 time. So when I talked to the applicants for these
30 permits, I say, we really don't have that large of an
31 area and we only have three access points and I'm
32 already getting complaints by local people that it's a
33 little on the crowded side and when locals can't find a
34 place to hunt -- I mean it's not like the 48, honestly,
35 I mean I grew up in Montana and even then there were
36 places I just simply wouldn't go, there was just too
37 many people and other places are far worse, I mean I'm
38 sure you know about some of those places, but we don't
39 want a congested hunting, we want a quality hunt and we
40 have -- and we owe it to our subsistence users to give
41 them a preference. So if, in this case, I had no
42 justification not to give one individual a permit, he
43 had a clean record and -- but if there's problems that
44 come up this fall he won't be coming back, that's all I
45 can say.

46
47 I review the applications, I do a
48 background investigation, I do reference checks on all
49 these guys that apply. I have to know if they have the
50

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1 financial ability to come out here and if they have a
2 place to stay, where are they going to operate from,
3 but you'd be surprised at how many people try to sneak
4 around and do different things.

5
6 So, anyway.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, did you
9 have another comment and then maybe we'll break here.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Oh, Coral actually had
12 her hand up before I did, it's just Melissa told you I
13 had my hand up so I'll defer to Coral and then I can go
14 later.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

17
18 MS. CHERNOFF: I had a question about
19 enforcement and, of course, it always comes up and we
20 always talk about enforcement and lack of enforcement.

21
22 So does enforcement come out here on a
23 regular basis, how many days would you say enforcement
24 is per year, are they sort of obligated to hit areas, a
25 certain amount of time, do you get them two days out of
26 the year.

27
28 I guess that's enforcement back there.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MS. CHERNOFF: And if they come out, is
33 there a particular season they come out in or do they
34 only come out when they're called out.

35
36 MR. RISDAHL: Through the Chair.
37 Coral. I would like to introduce our law enforcement,
38 Kelly Modla, she's from Kenai and she's been coming
39 out, I don't know how many years. She has more years
40 here than I have. Right now she's planning on being
41 out here twice for a couple of weeks at each stay, I
42 think; is that correct?

43
44 OFFICER MODLA: (Nods affirmatively)

45
46 MR. RISDAHL: So she tries to arrange
47 her travel based on her other duties as well as when we
48 really need her here. And so openings or when birds
49 are really flying in or, you know, there's also other
50

1 law enforcement here but I can't talk about them.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. RISDAHL: That's more under cover,
6 so to speak.

7

8 But Kelly is our face and she's out
9 there contacting people on a daily basis and she
10 doesn't just work in the afternoon and quit at 5:00, I
11 see her out on the weekends and working evenings, too.
12 So she's definitely out there when she needs to be
13 there so.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, did you
16 have a comment or was it just Coral.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I actually had a
19 couple followup questions regarding the caribou data
20 and a biologist.

21

22 Can you comment on the necessity of
23 having the winter count in order for the subsistence
24 harvest to be appropriately managed. And I ask that,
25 keeping in mind that Fish and Game does have -- they do
26 have the survey data, et cetera. And then to help me
27 better understand where you're coming from, what are
28 your priorities. So if you did get a wildlife -- or a
29 biologist, I think at this table you've heard the
30 importance of having a biologist to do the caribou
31 count, so that kind of goes towards the first question,
32 which is, are these winter counts necessary or are they
33 nice to have, can we not have a hunt without them,
34 which obviously we can have a hunt because hunts are
35 happening, but if you got this biologist, are there
36 other things that you would prioritize over the
37 caribou. And that may be a loaded question for this
38 group but it would really help me understand where
39 you're coming from and what -- you know, what your
40 perspective is.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, thank you. Through
45 the Chair, Rebecca, that is a very good question.

46

47 I was content knowing that we were
48 getting good information from ADF&G about the caribou,
49 getting a production count in the spring sometimes and
50

1 always a recruitment count in the fall where we
2 classify bulls, cows, calves, yearlings, so we know
3 what the recruitment of the population is. When I
4 talked -- I actually posed the same question to Fish
5 and Game. Now, I was a Fish and Game biologist myself
6 for 15 years in Montana so this is what I did, I flew
7 surveys 60 to 80 days a year, far more surveys than the
8 Fish and Wildlife Service does and I flew everything
9 from elk and deer and antelope to sage grouse and
10 short-tailed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and turkeys
11 from the air, we did a ton of surveying from the air,
12 we did not do anything like what you would consider a
13 minimum count, ever, and I don't believe the State does
14 either, generally speaking, that's just not something
15 that is a normal wildlife management technique --
16 method. We do very specific surveys to get -- we don't
17 just go and count numbers, we want to know what the
18 demographics of a population are so for us to really
19 get valuable information, if you're just counting a
20 total number you're really not getting as good of
21 information as you would be, as if you were classifying
22 them as bulls, cows, calves, whatever -- whatever you
23 -- just like we do with the bear survey. The bear
24 survey is very important for us because we're
25 classifying there's bears, we know what the population
26 is doing, we know what the demographic spread of age
27 classes and sexes are. But if you're just going out
28 and counting numbers, that, to me, isn't as important.
29 So I was feeling content, even though we -- and there
30 was more than just lack of a biologist, Ken was --
31 we've had some airplane problems, too, so we couldn't
32 get -- there was more to it than just not having a
33 biologist, but had we been able to we would have done
34 the flights anyway because it's something that the
35 Refuge has tried to do, but having the recruitment
36 demographic information from ADF&G studies, I felt very
37 good about having a season and knowing what's going on
38 out there because that's what I used for 15 years with
39 the State as well, and then 10 years as a biologist for
40 the Feds. That is normal survey information. That is
41 useful for setting season dates and bag limits.

42
43 So missing those minimum counts, I'm
44 not even sure, honestly, why they started doing them.
45 That would be -- if I had to be totally honest, and I
46 don't want to be, you know, you guys might think it's
47 -- I'm -- I don't know, it's not as important as doing
48 those recruitment or production counts because you're
49 not getting as good of information. And if you're
50

1 having to let something go, which, you know, we keep
2 being told you're going to have to let stuff go anyway,
3 because it's looking like the funding for the Federal
4 civilian agencies may continue to decrease, that's
5 something that would go far before -- I mean if Fish
6 and Game wasn't doing a recruitment count, we would be
7 doing it, we would definitely be doing it because that
8 is important. We need to know what's going on out
9 there. We don't need to know the total number of
10 animals, we do need to know the bull/cow ratio and the
11 cow/calf ratio and have some idea about the trend in
12 the population; that's what we really need to know.

13

14 So I hope that answers your question.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, it really does.
17 You know being very aware of the financial constraints
18 at every level, local, State and Federal, we may want a
19 lot of things but the reality is we're not going to get
20 them and so it's very useful to hear from your
21 perspective the -- I'll say the biological need, or the
22 management need and the utility of that data because if
23 there's other stuff that we need more than -- I mean I
24 want to understand that because I don't want to be
25 advocating and trying to get something that's not
26 adding any value, particularly if that means we're
27 giving up something that we really do need. So your
28 answer was very helpful for me.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. RISDAHL: You're welcome. The one
33 thing that really was useful, I think, for doing those
34 winter counts is we would typically radio-track caribou
35 as well. I think it was Chris had mentioned that
36 there's about 40 collars on caribou out there and it
37 does help us to locate them and we can give that
38 information to the State and then when they're
39 preparing to do their recruitment counts or whatever,
40 we can say, yeah, this is where the herd is because we
41 located these caribou. But they can find them even
42 without.

43

44 Another thing that I did in Montana was
45 I had about 160 mule deer with radio collars and neck
46 bands and we would do observability studies so you go
47 out and you fly three days in a row every month in
48 different seasons, in different vegetation conditions
49 when the does are having fawns and things to determine

50

1 the best time of the year to be able to actually fly
2 and see those animals and count them and do -- get good
3 survey information. So you can do a lot of different
4 things with collared animals and we had been doing some
5 of that. But right now those collars -- I think the
6 most useful thing we're getting from the collars right
7 now is to see where those animals are and if there is
8 much interchange between Unimak and the Southern Alaska
9 Peninsula Herd. How many of those caribou actually go
10 back and forth between the island and the Peninsula.
11 But as far as a winter count, it is not as high a
12 priority as getting a recruitment or production count
13 done.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
18 Greg. We're going to break for lunch. I told the lady
19 that we'd come down at 1:00 and then we'll come back --
20 oh, okay, Tom.

21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: Just one quick comment.
23 I would like to maybe in the future have some more
24 information on this Tundra swan thing because I have
25 had a number of people here, locally, ask why we didn't
26 have a Tundra swan subsistence hunt here when they did
27 in other areas. So maybe if you could just provide
28 some information on that in the future.

29
30 Thanks.

31
32 MR. RISDAHL: You bet. I'll try to get
33 that for you, Tom.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
36 Karen, I think we'll break for lunch and then come back
37 in an hour. Just so you know, I'm already on weather
38 hold.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's your middle
41 name, Della Weatherhold Trumble, right.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if those of
44 you on line can come back, I'd say, like 2:15, if
45 that's okay with everybody -- or 2:00 o'clock, we can
46 eat fast.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50

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1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. The next
4 item on the agenda is ADF&G, Chris, King Salmon.

5

6 MS. PETERSON: yes, Madame Chair, this
7 is Chris.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Chris. We're ready when you are.

11

12 MS. PETERSON: Okay, thank you.

13

14 As you all heard this morning, Greg
15 Risdahl presented a considerable amount of data on the
16 Unimak herd and that will shorten what I need to put
17 out there, though, if anyone has any questions, please,
18 feel free to clarify some points or ask for more
19 information.

20

21 Here at Alaska Fish and Game -- so let
22 me start over.

23

24 It was pretty clear that there were
25 some good questions that people have about what we are
26 doing in terms of managing the Southern Peninsula Herd
27 as well as the Unimak Caribou Herd, and there was
28 concern over us raising bag limits. I -- it felt like
29 people were thinking that we were just going to run out
30 there and raise the bag limits. So I just, very
31 briefly, wanted to run through some of the management
32 limitations that we have and the key features that we
33 watch for that clue us in as to whether or not we can
34 raise a bag limit, which does not necessarily mean that
35 we would, but whether or not it would be biologically
36 acceptable, and the key factors that we watch for that
37 we require us to close hunts or to decrease
38 availability of animals for harvest.

39

40 So just very briefly I'd like to run
41 through that.

42

43 I can't say it all in this short time
44 but perhaps it will be helpful to some of you to hear
45 some of this.

46

47 For the Unimak herd, our management
48 plan includes a population goal of at least a thousand
49 caribou. But since this is an island herd, and a very

50

1 unique situation for a herd of caribou, we -- the
2 island cannot support much more than a thousand
3 caribou, and so that is our minimum. It's also very
4 close to the maximum. We have a very small range
5 within to manage this -- within which to manage this
6 herd. So we would like to get it up to a thousand and
7 then be able to keep it somewhere between a thousand
8 and a few hundred more than that.

9
10 Because of this island geography and
11 habitat for these caribou, the management things that
12 we can do, the tools that we have to use need to be
13 used -- in order to be effective, they need to be used
14 quickly, we can't have a lot of lag time between what
15 we see that we need to do and actually being able to do
16 it, and we have to be cautious at both ends. In other
17 words, if they're declining and getting -- decreasing
18 in numbers, we need to be very quick and cautious to
19 decrease bag limits or to close hunts or whatever is
20 appropriate, and then on the other end of the spectrum,
21 if the population is growing then we need to watch
22 those top numbers, because it would not take much at
23 all before the population exceeded what that island can
24 support and then we have other problems that we don't
25 want.

26
27 So everything that we do is somewhat
28 constrained because of that island geography.

29
30 On Unimak we are -- one of our goals is
31 to manage for a minimum fall bull to cow ratio, at
32 least 35 bulls per 100 cows. And the last few years
33 we've not had any trouble with that at all, we've had
34 very good numbers as Greg presented earlier. Although
35 it is not written into the plan for our caribou
36 biology, we know that we need to have a minimum of 20
37 to 25, absolute minimum, calves to 100 cows and we've
38 been able to exceed that for the last couple of years,
39 about three years now. And this past year, in 2016, it
40 was actually at 40 calves per 100 cows, which fits what
41 we have been seeing down there as far as this herd
42 goes. It is rapidly growing. And they are in
43 extremely good condition and predation is way down. So
44 everything is very good for this herd, other than, that
45 it is growing rapidly on a very small island and so we
46 have to watch those things and be able to counter those
47 quickly.

48
49 Some of the key factors that we watch
50

1 for is if the population reaches one-half, or 50
2 percent of that minimum, and you remember the minimum
3 is a thousand, if we reach 500, well, we can begin to
4 consider hunting, that doesn't mean that we have to,
5 but it does make it so that we -- you know, it makes
6 sense to consider it and everything would depend on
7 what else we're seeing out there. If the habitat has
8 recovered or what predation is like and things like
9 that all play into this. If the population is above
10 the minimum of a thousand, then we are required to
11 provide sufficient harvest to manage the herd to keep
12 it from getting too high. And if its hit a thousand
13 really quickly and it's just climbing, like screaming
14 up there, then we need to be able to get in there and
15 harvest some animals and keep it from growing that
16 fast.

17
18 On the other end of the spectrum, is if
19 it starts to decline and that decline lasts more than a
20 year and it just keeps going down then we need to be
21 able to get in there and do -- figure out what's wrong
22 and put some stops on the hunting, slow it down and be
23 able to figure out what's going on.

24
25 So all of our regulations and our tools
26 are aimed at doing those things.

27
28 Hunting restrictions will be
29 implemented during periods of population decline or
30 when the population falls below the threshold to
31 conserve the herd for future use, which, in this case
32 means if the calf to cow ratio falls below 20 calves
33 per 100 cows for three consecutive years or when the
34 total population is less than the 50 percent of the
35 minimum population objective and it's in a period of
36 decline, then we need to close the hunt.

37
38 So currently, the level that we're at
39 on Unimak, we're estimating we're somewhere around 300
40 animals, and I don't have an exact number right here at
41 this moment, but it's somewhere around 300, we are not
42 even talking about starting a hunt on Unimak yet, but
43 it could come up quickly in the next couple years.
44 What it would be, though, would be a very conservative
45 and careful hunt because we do not want to get back
46 into the situation that we've been in in the past with
47 Unimak.

48
49 Other parameters that we watch for
50

1 would be the total harvest on the island cannot exceed
2 the allowable harvest and so if we did put a hunt in
3 place we would very carefully watch those numbers and
4 if it even began to get close to the total allowable
5 then we're going to be very cautious and ready to close
6 it, if it continued to reach that level.

7
8 The ANS, the amount necessary for
9 subsistence for the Unimak and Southern Peninsula
10 Caribou Herd, in total, combined, is 100 to 150
11 caribou. Currently with the Southern Peninsula Herd
12 opened to a general harvest ticket for residents and
13 non-residents, I believe we had -- I believe it was
14 around 90 -- no, it was around 80 permits issued for
15 the Southern Peninsula Herd this past year and we only
16 had 40-some animals harvested plus seven or eight for
17 the Refuge, so less than 50, which represented, on the
18 State part -- the 40 represented about a -- it was
19 close to 60 percent success rate, which is really high,
20 but it's still not even close to the harvest that is
21 required for ANS. And that is one of the things that
22 we manage for, is to provide that much opportunity.
23 And the opportunity is there, but it is not being
24 harvested at that level.

25
26 If the bull to cow ratio falls below 35
27 bulls per 100 cows for three consecutive years or if
28 the allowable harvest, the number that we know are
29 available for harvest is less than 10 bulls for two
30 consecutive years, then we can close the hunt. We can
31 take away the bull harvest. One thing that we have to
32 manage for is to maintain the minimum bull to cow ratio
33 regardless of the herd's status. There will be no
34 harvest when the total population is below 20 percent
35 of the minimum population objective. So when it hits
36 200 there's no harvest at all. And probably with the
37 history of this herd, that would take place sooner than
38 the 200. If it fell -- if it continues to grow and we
39 were to open a hunt and then it declined, by the time
40 it started down under 300 again, we would be thinking
41 about closing that hunt well before it got to 200.

42
43 So those are some of the guidelines
44 that we have to go by for this herd and biologically
45 they should sustain the herd and be able to provide us
46 with some proper management that we need to put out
47 there. We cannot always account for nature and things
48 that will happen, but every survey that we go on out
49 there, we have a whole list of things that we are
50

1 watching for, investigating, checking out, making sure
2 what the status of those different factors is before we
3 make any sort of an assessment of the actual survey
4 results.

5
6 So hopefully that gives you a little
7 better understanding of how we do that and makes you a
8 little bit -- I would hope it would make you a little
9 more comfortable with those bag limits that we were
10 talking about. They're not something that we're just
11 going to jump into, we have no intentions of doing
12 that. It just makes it so that we can react more
13 quickly.

14
15 Other than that, I'd like to add we are
16 managing for hopefully to get up to 100, 150 animals
17 harvested per year. Currently we have 26 radio
18 collared caribou on Unimak and we do maintain -- are
19 required to maintain at least 15 collared animals,
20 we're at 26, sometimes we've been up to 35 or 50. And
21 we'll look at it this year and see how many animals we
22 need to add collars to. On the Southern Peninsula Herd
23 we have 50 collars out. So those animals help us with
24 our surveys and they also provide a viewability index
25 that we apply to all of our survey data.

26
27 Let's see, okay, this past year, in
28 October, late October in 2016 we did our composition
29 survey of both the SAP and Unimak. Specifically on the
30 Unimak herd -- well, on both herds, we look at the
31 proportions of the bulls and their ages, we look at the
32 number of cows, the calves and we examine or analyze
33 the survival of calves since they were born in the
34 spring. This gives us an indication of causes of
35 mortality. It can show us something that we need to
36 investigate more closely. And so that's something that
37 we check out. It gives us the percentages of the herd
38 that are bulls versus cows versus calves and it breaks
39 down the bulls into three different categories, small,
40 medium and small bulls, which is related to age.

41
42 In June, in 2017, we did our partition
43 survey. In this survey we examine the overwinter
44 survival of the cows and short yearlings, yearlings
45 being the calves that were born the previous spring.
46 We look at the percent of pregnant cows and how many of
47 them have calves of a given date which shows us whether
48 or not the partrition period is changing during the
49 year. We look at the number of bears and wolves that

50

1 we see close to the calving grounds. So on Unimak the
2 calving grounds are very, oh, they're not congregated
3 like they are for larger herds and so we pretty much
4 cover the entire island when we're doing partrition on
5 Unimak. We look at the condition of the cows and the
6 condition of the calves, and then as I said we check on
7 those calves later in the fall to see how many of them
8 made it. If they don't make it through the first month
9 then that's generally due to predation or nutritional
10 problems. And if we're seeing that then we go in and
11 put on a calf survival project and figure out what that
12 mortality is actually due to. Is it nutrition or is it
13 wolf predation or bear predation. If it's predation,
14 it's most likely bears if it's during the first few
15 weeks of life. Most wolf predation will take place
16 later. So the timing of that has a lot to do with what
17 we come up with.

18
19 We also -- when we deploy our radio
20 collars in the spring, and, again, we probably will be
21 doing some more of that this spring. We missed this
22 year because we had plenty of other collaring projects
23 that we were doing. We do physical examinations. We
24 check for condition, age, damage. Interestingly on
25 Unimak we have a lot of caribou that have no incisors,
26 they're just right down into gum and probably due to
27 several things. A lot of the caribou on Unimak
28 frequent the beaches and they do get into some of the
29 plants that are found on the beaches which have high
30 sand content, which could be hard on teeth, but also
31 there's probably plenty of ice on that island from the
32 volcanos and that is very abrasive to teeth as well.
33 Interestingly also those animals appear to be in
34 fabulous condition even though they don't have incisors
35 so it doesn't seem to be a problem down there at least
36 the years I've been out there.

37
38 In 2016, we only had one wolf harvested
39 on Unimak, which is well down, or at least only one
40 reported harvested, but there probably were some
41 others, which is considerably less than the previous
42 years. This spring on the partrition hunts -- or
43 surveys, excuse me, we didn't see a wolf, and that's
44 the first time we have not seen a wolf in quite a few
45 years. We also saw fewer bears, though the number we
46 saw had gone up from the past two years. So we do keep
47 track of all those. And then we just look at the
48 trends through time of all these different things that
49 we're measuring and keep an eye on the herd and see how
50

1 it's going.

2

3 Also in the previous year, this past
4 spring, we had seven brown bears harvested on Unimak,
5 six were males and one was a female. There are 12
6 permits distributed or issued in the fall and in the
7 spring on Unimak. So the number harvested is well
8 short of the number of permits.

9

10 And, oh, in addition, if we were to go
11 out on one of our surveys and see indications, either
12 in the animals or in the habitat, that there is a
13 possibility of some sort of nutritional deficiency in
14 terms of browse, maybe the succession is going from
15 willows to alders and we're losing -- maybe we could be
16 losing too much of our willows or something, then we'll
17 go in and do a vegetation, a browse survey, and check
18 that out and see if that's actually occurring or if it
19 just appears to be.

20

21 So there's a lot of things there that
22 we watch.

23

24 Currently, Unimak looks really in good
25 shape. It's growing pretty quickly. There -- all the
26 animals we've checked out have been in just
27 exceptionally good condition. I don't think we've seen
28 -- maybe one animal in two years that was less than
29 really, really excellent condition and that was a very
30 old cow. This year we only -- we had 8 percent
31 mortality on cows on Unimak, which, you know, we'd
32 rather it wasn't quite that high but taken in context,
33 you know, just a very few years ago we were down to,
34 you know, around 100 animals, of which most were cows,
35 and all of those cows are getting old, and over the
36 past few years those older cows are dying off. So our
37 adult survival of cows could be a little bit high
38 because of those cows that are dying now, which also
39 indicates that we have a lot of young cows coming on
40 now and we'll probably have really good calf production
41 over the next few years. We already have 40 calves to
42 100 cows, which is excellent.

43

44 So in a nutshell and very quickly
45 that's all that I had to present on Unimak, so if
46 there's any questions I'd be glad to address those
47 quickly.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.

50

1 MR. KOSO: Della, this is Rick.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, was
4 that you Rick.

5
6 MR. KOSO: Yeah. That was a very good
7 report.

8
9 I got a question. If it comes to a
10 certain point where you start shutting the season down,
11 is that -- if we get into that situation, I never heard
12 you mention that -- I know you mentioned that you would
13 shut the season down, is there a process where you go
14 through where you shut the commercial part of it down
15 for people and then maybe the subsistence part of it
16 kicks in, where, as we did before, have permits for
17 each community. Do you have that in your plan, or do
18 we have to initiate that every year?

19
20 MS. PETERSON: That's a very good
21 question, thank you.

22
23 Just in Fish and Game, the Department,
24 that is the way it is set up. So it's not actually
25 written into each plan, that is written into Fish and
26 Game, that as populations decline and the harvest
27 becomes less available, of any species, the first thing
28 that is shut down would be non-residents, and then at
29 certain other levels that are more extreme than that
30 level, as it continues to decline, if it does, then we
31 go to a step system where it may go into a Tier II hunt
32 for a short time, or longer, which is based on a -- as
33 most of you know, you get points -- you can put in for
34 that, you fill out an application and you get so many
35 points for being a local residents, how many years you
36 have lived in that community, how many years have you
37 used that resource for food, et cetera. So it goes
38 from being resident/non-resident, which it may never
39 get to that point in the first place, it may stop at
40 just residents, it may never be opened up to non-
41 residents, it depends on the situation of the herd, but
42 at any rate if it was, opened up to both, it would go
43 from that to residents only and then down step-wise
44 into local residents and then maybe even be limited on
45 how many local residents. And then it would eventually
46 be closed.

47
48 Now, all of those, for a herd like the
49 Unimak herd, all of those steps can take place very
50

1 quickly. In other words, it may progress from resident
2 and non-resident in the best case scenario and suddenly
3 drop all the way to just total closure, it's a very
4 small herd and things can happen very quickly. So
5 that's one of the reasons that we are looking to have
6 this flexible bag limits set in place there so that we
7 can have a little more utility in applying that tool to
8 that herd and the Southern Peninsula Herd. The
9 Southern Peninsula Herd is certainly much larger, has a
10 lot more space, it also has a lot more harvest and so
11 we -- that actually is better that we are able to get
12 more harvest than none. It gives us the ability to
13 manage there a little bit more quickly.

14
15 So, yes, in answer to your question, it
16 is set up to step-wise get from, if it ever got to non-
17 residents, they would be the first ones that would be
18 shut out of that hunt.

19
20 Does that answer your question?

21
22 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you very much.
23 I got one other question, do you guys monitor Adak or
24 anything out that far?

25
26 MS. PETERSON: We don't monitor Adak.
27 I'm glad you brought this up because it did occur to me
28 earlier that there was some questions about out there.

29
30 We do not have the budget to get out to
31 Adak. And Alaska Maritime Refuge does, they are out
32 there so much and they do an excellent job of
33 monitoring the caribou on Adak. They had a couple
34 surveys.....

35
36 (Teleconference interruption -
37 participant phones not muted)

38
39 MS. PETERSON:in, I believe it
40 was 2012 and -- I want to say 2015, I'm not 100 percent
41 sure of that year, but I think it was 2015 where they
42 surveyed the entire island as well as the neighboring
43 island to which those caribou have been moving. They
44 had excellent numbers out there. It showed that that
45 herd was decreasing somewhat over the last couple of
46 years, it tends to hit real high points and then
47 decrease, as all caribou do, and then it will climb
48 back again. We do manage according to the numbers that
49 we get from those surveys that they conduct. And we

50

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1 try to -- we try to encourage people to get just cows,
2 or as many cows as they can so that the herd will not
3 increase quite so rapidly or to the levels that it
4 goes, and that is the reason that we have the bull
5 restriction on the hunt on Adak. It's not to make sure
6 that there are big bulls for trophy hunters, it's aimed
7 at encouraging people to get cows so that that will
8 slow down the growth of that herd. Again, it's an
9 island herd. Things happen really quickly on islands
10 and we don't have a lot of control out there, but
11 that's something that we can do.

12
13 MR. KOSO: Thank you, very much.

14
15 MS. PETERSON: You're welcome and thank
16 you for the question.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Tom.

19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I have a
21 question. In last years report on Unimak Herd it says
22 the herd grew from 230 to 330 animals, and I believe I
23 heard you say you estimated the herd this year at 300
24 animals, so did we take a loss in animals and yet we're
25 showing a cow/calf ratio of 40 calves per 100 cows, so
26 where's the discrepancy there. We went, supposedly
27 from 330 animals last year and now I believe I heard
28 you say you estimated it at 300.

29
30 MS. PETERSON: Thank you, that's a good
31 question. And the discrepancy lies in the person who's
32 speaking here, I apologize. I didn't have the numbers
33 directly in front of me for our last estimate and so I
34 did say it's somewhere around 300, but, yes, 330 is
35 more exact. And chances are by now I'm sure that has
36 gone up but I have not been out there to do the count
37 yet. We will be going out in about -- well, actually,
38 just a little over three weeks from now we'll be going
39 out and doing our fall count and then I can give you a
40 much better idea.

41
42 But, yes, I apologize for fudging a
43 little bit on that number. You're exactly correct, it
44 was at 330.

45
46 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other.....

49
50

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1 MS. PETERSON: You're welcome.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:comments or
4 questions for Chris.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Della, it's Pat.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Chris, thank you for
11 the really swell report there. I think we've gotten
12 more from you in the last 10 minutes than we have from
13 -- gosh, the other groups in years, particularly your
14 population estimates. I don't recall, maybe somebody
15 else does, that we've ever gotten those results of the
16 surveys. When you finish your fall survey if you could
17 relay to us your rough numbers once you get a gross
18 idea and if you'd label them draft then we understand
19 it's draft because it would be really keen for us to
20 keep a little bit better in the know and part of that
21 would help as well as you've done a swell job of
22 identifying the current management plans for caribou in
23 both areas, and if you could relay that through our
24 coordinator, I think that would be really handy to sit
25 down and -- because my wife -- anyway, I just would
26 like to look at it straight out.

27
28 And then I'd like -- I wonder if you
29 could speculate on the decreased predation on Unimak
30 Island, both Rick Koso and I can remember when there
31 were 3,000 caribou on Unimak and 2,000 moved north
32 which probably contributed to the genetic spread there,
33 but, you know, the old timers that I have met on the
34 Peninsula used to say rabies controlled the number of
35 wolves and I was just wondering, did you see any
36 incidences of mortality of the wolves or did they just
37 pack it up, or any kind of guess of what's happening
38 out there.

39
40 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

43
44 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, thank you. That's
45 a good question. We do not do any formal wolf surveys
46 unless indicated that we need to when we look at the
47 caribou then we would. And we were slated to put some
48 collars on wolves down on the Southern Peninsula this
49 spring, we were not able to get down there with flying

50

1 conditions that enabled us to do the tracking and the
2 fancy flying that it takes to dart a wolf and get it on
3 the ground so that we can put a collar on it. So we
4 were unable to get those on this year. We'll probably
5 still get around to it this next year but it does take
6 special conditions to make that possible.

7
8 So decreased numbers of wolves that we
9 have seen on Unimak appear to be correlated to the
10 decrease herd size over the last 10 years and then even
11 though the herd has been growing for the last few
12 years, there's always a lag time between when the
13 predators catch up to their prey, in population
14 numbers. And so when the caribou declined to certain
15 low numbers on Unimak, it became probably far more
16 difficult for wolves to find enough caribou to eat. So
17 I would speculate that they either starved, which I
18 don't think is terribly likely, it's pretty easy for
19 them to get across to the Peninsula, or they just left
20 and they went where there was more food. And the
21 Southern Peninsula certainly has plenty of wolves. The
22 harvest of wolves on the Southern Peninsula has also
23 decreased over the previous few years, it's down very,
24 very low. I don't have the numbers right in front of
25 me but I've watched it for years now and it's just
26 steadily declined. We don't have people -- we either
27 don't have them reporting or they're not going out and
28 harvesting wolves.

29
30 But we still see wolves every time we
31 go to the Southern Peninsula.

32
33 It is possible that there's some
34 disease going on there. There were some reports this
35 past year from just north of King Salmon and west of
36 some problems with rabies, possibly, I'm not sure that
37 it was ever verified that that's what it was, but there
38 was some -- there was something going on there. And
39 that could have -- it could have gone all the way down
40 the Peninsula, but we have not seen it.

41
42 We do -- as I said, every survey we do
43 we keep an informal tab on the numbers of wolves and
44 bears we see. Over the past five years we've seen,
45 with brown bear in particular, we saw significant
46 decrease, from our informal survey, there is still
47 plenty of brown bears, it wasn't something that we
48 needed to go investigate further. If it had continued
49 we would have. But then it turned around and over the
50

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1 past two years we've seen an increase. So some of
2 these are just simply natural cycles that populations
3 go through. It's probably related to presence or
4 absence of food, it could be related to disease. Could
5 be related because they don't like their pack leader
6 and they just leave or get killed, they do kill
7 themselves a lot -- each other, I should say. And we
8 see that a lot with wolves, as well as bears.

9
10 So there's things going on there that
11 sometimes we don't have an in-depth enough survey going
12 on to determine the cause but we can see the trend and
13 the trend will tell us if we need to get into it in
14 more depth and determine the cause.

15
16 So hopefully that gives you a little
17 understanding there of what we do on the bears and the
18 wolves.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you. That kind
21 of was what I was guessing at. I used to tease Lem
22 Butler that when I was doing the Fish and Game projects
23 on salmon on Unimak Island in '84 that I probably
24 caused the whole decline of the herd by shooting a
25 rabid wolf out there, not a wolf, but a rabid fox.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. HOLMES: I'll try and dig out a
30 topo map and I'll give you a sketch if you do end up
31 going out there, I know where there used to be, at
32 least years ago, a den, and having watched the wolves
33 there, was quite excited as we're -- oh, I'd call Dick
34 Sellers and he was -- he just thought that was
35 incredible to -- because you hardly saw any wolves out
36 there at that time.

37
38 But, anyway, things do change and I
39 appreciate you being so candid with us and explaining
40 more to us. I think your observation on wolf reporting
41 is probably -- have you had a chance to go out to False
42 Pass and give them your presentation, I think that
43 would give them a lot of encouragement and.....

44
45 MS. PETERSON: Oh, okay.

46
47 MR. HOLMES:I'll just be quiet
48 now Della.

49
50

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1 MS. PETERSON: Thank you for your
2 comments, I appreciate it Pat.

3
4 Yes, we keep track of where any dens
5 are that we find, including from back when they did the
6 wolf control around Cold Bay there and north, and we
7 visited all those spots for a week this spring
8 attempting to find a wolf in a place where the wind
9 would permit us to get a collar on it, we didn't see a
10 lot of wolves this spring but we have a lot of reports
11 of people seeing wolves down there over the summer so
12 we know they're still around. You know we'll keep
13 flying and keep looking.

14
15 So thanks for your comments, Pat.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
18 Is there any more comments or questions for Chris.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Chris. The next item on our agenda that we had talked
24 about was actually Unit 10 and the potential of
25 creating a subsistence hunt, which would be having to
26 be done by special action because we missed the
27 deadlines for this year. So I guess with that, we've
28 had some discussion amongst ourself and looking at the
29 figures and limits and I'm not sure if one of the
30 gentlemen here would like to take a try at what maybe
31 we had discussed and maybe look at the Refuge manager
32 and Chris and get their opinion as to what their
33 thoughts are as we move forward, and whether we do a
34 proposal before we leave the meeting today.

35
36 Tom.

37
38 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I was just
39 talking to Tom Evans about this special action request
40 and it does say the Federal Subsistence Board may take
41 special action to restrict, close, open or reopen the
42 taking of fish and wildlife on Federal lands. Such
43 actions are taken to ensure continued viability.

44
45 My theory is we closed -- this board
46 closed that season a number of years ago and -- at
47 least we put in a proposal to close the Federal
48 subsistence hunt on Unimak Island and that went
49 through. From my perspective looking at these numbers
50

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1 there's now enough animals there for us to reopen that
2 season and take a select number of animals.

3
4 And so what I would be proposing is
5 that we reestablish a subsistence hunt on Unimak
6 Island, restricted to the residents of Unimak Island.
7 It would be a Federal registration permit only. I
8 believe we could certainly issue 10 Federal permits to
9 harvest 10 animals off that island.

10
11 And so that's kind of where I would be
12 going.

13
14 MR. ROHRER: If that's a proposal I'll
15 second it.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. ROHRER: Is that a proposal.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. ROHRER: Is that a motion -- excuse
24 me, a motion?

25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, I actually hadn't
27 put it in a motion, but I can do that and make it more
28 formal. Yeah, that's kind of where I want to go, so,
29 yeah, I would say that's a motion.

30
31 MR. ROHRER: Second.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we
34 have a motion on the floor to create a Federal
35 subsistence hunt on Unimak Island for a limited harvest
36 of caribou, and it was seconded. So at this point, I
37 guess, we open the floor for discussion, and I don't
38 know if Chris or Greg or Tom would like to take a --
39 okay, Greg.

40
41 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of
42 the Council. We would support that proposal at the
43 Refuge. That's about all I need to say, I think, as
44 far as that goes.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

47
48 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
49 Chris in King Salmon. I -- I -- I had not really put
50

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1 any thought into that particular question. I --
2 because of the low numbers that you're going to be
3 using it would probably be -- I guess I'd be kind of
4 neutral on that, I don't -- I would not discourage it
5 but I wouldn't support it necessarily either. We would
6 probably like to give it another year and see if they
7 continued to increase as well as they have, but 10
8 animals is not very many and that's probably fine with
9 us.

10
11 I also did want to say something that I
12 didn't earlier.

13
14 The winter count that the Refuge does
15 down there on Unimak, they have picked the, and not
16 that they wanted to, but they picked the worst possible
17 seasons to get out there on that island and I can
18 understand that they did not always get it
19 accomplished. That survey does become fairly important
20 occasionally when we were unable to accomplish our
21 surveys and that minimum count can be fairly important
22 in those particular years. It isn't every year. So
23 whether or not it's something that they want to
24 continue, I don't know, but there is value to it and I
25 -- I think they do a decent job of getting out there
26 and doing it.

27
28 As I said, 10 animals is pretty minimal
29 and -- or 10 permits or whatever -- however you
30 structure it.

31
32 So, thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on Pat, we
39 have Rebecca and then Pat.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Will do.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

44
45 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to
46 understand the timeline of this. So if we take this
47 action today, would this go in front of the Federal
48 Subsistence Board in, what month of 2018, and then when
49 do we think the change would take effect if the Federal
50

1 Subsistence Board decided to take action on this?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is Tom Doolittle,
6 Deputy Assistant Regional Director for OSM. Yeah,
7 obviously we're out of the regulatory proposal cycle
8 for wildlife so it would have to be submitted as a
9 crafted temporary special action that would be good for
10 the duration for the remainder of the upcoming wildlife
11 cycle. And I would recommend that just, you know,
12 between interested parties who decide who can submit
13 it, of course we only -- OSM will only, you know,
14 accommodate a proposal -- not a proposal, but a special
15 action that has been submitted to our office, it will
16 go through the review of validation and then it will go
17 through -- you know, once validated it would go through
18 an analysis and then be presented to the Board. That
19 -- we'll have to see what those timelines are once we
20 go through that, but it could be, you know, presented
21 along with our wildlife cycle in April, so that would
22 be something to consider.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: And so if it was put
25 before the Federal Subsistence Board in April of 2018,
26 when would it actually take effect?

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: It could take effect,
29 you know, actually within that following fall.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The other thing
32 I think, piece, that you may not have -- there would be
33 a public hearing.....

34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, in all temporary
36 special actions there's always a public hearing and
37 availability for the respective agencies, ADF&G, to
38 comment, both in the public hearing and then also in
39 the formation of our analysis, too, whoever's crafting
40 it from the Wildlife Division would contact the
41 appropriate specialists that have been, whether Federal
42 or State, working on that to make sure that there's
43 appropriate data clarity to assure that the right
44 information is presented to the Board for a decision.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat,
47 did you have a question or a comment.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Yes, thank you, Madame

50

1 Chair. I would be uncomfortable with a harvest of 10.
2 I would think maybe we could framework it in terms of
3 being able to have a subsistence harvest for the folks
4 at False Pass. It's been a couple of years since I
5 talked with Tom Hoblett out there but, you know, the
6 last time they had any caribou is when somebody from
7 Cold Bay gave them a hindquarter or something. And so
8 I think if there is some growth, maybe we should leave
9 it to the -- to Chris to make some reasonable
10 guesstimates and maybe if 10 local permits would yield
11 five caribou or at least something so folks there, or
12 the elders could have some meat, you know, have some
13 traditional food, that's the type of thing that our
14 Council has tried to provide for and I think it would
15 have some really good merit.

16
17 So thanks everybody for thinking about
18 this.

19
20 I'm done.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

23
24 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.

25
26 MR. KOSO: Della.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I did talk to
29 Tom on Monday when I came over from King Cove, he was
30 on his way to Anchorage so I was able to chat with him
31 a little bit.

32
33 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
34 Chris.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

37
38 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. While you've
39 been discussing this I've just been looking back
40 through our numbers and technically on our management
41 plan we need to get the bull/cow ratio up a little more
42 for a couple of years before we really seriously
43 consider opening a hunt for the State. And I would be
44 far more comfortable in having some time to perhaps get
45 our next survey accomplished before we actually looked
46 at this and said yes we would support taking 10 bulls.
47 I realize that you're talking a minimal take and I'm
48 wondering if you couldn't craft this that it was based
49 on continued increase and perhaps exceeding that

50

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1 population minimum, you know, 50 percent of the
2 population minimum, which would be 500 animals, which
3 if the increase continues they should hit that in the
4 next two years.

5
6 So I can understand wanting to have
7 this already passed and approved, but perhaps it could
8 be based on -- I would suggest to base it on population
9 and trend in that population.

10
11 Yes, that's -- I guess that's what I'd
12 like to say.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Chris.

16
17 Rebecca.

18
19 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so I -- I guess
20 with what Chris just said. My interest in seeing this
21 move forward in some way, sooner rather than later, is
22 to create a system and/or a mechanism so that we can
23 quickly respond to changes in the size of the herd, so
24 similarly to comments I made yesterday. I would be
25 concerned if we didn't take action now and then waited
26 and then the time it would take for anything we tried
27 to do at our next meeting, or if we waited until the
28 next game cycle, that we would lose the ability to
29 react quickly if the herd gets too big. So, you know,
30 maybe we can think about adding some language to the
31 current proposal that says up to 10 permits based on,
32 you know, assessment of the herd so that the Refuge
33 manager and Fish and Game have the, I guess, discretion
34 or leeway to confer with each other and come up with a
35 mutually agreed upon plan so creating the structure
36 that would allow a hunt without mandating that one
37 occur.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Rebecca.

41
42 Someone, maybe, Tom, can refresh our
43 memory, not only like on the process of having a
44 special subsistence hunt regulated by Fish and Wildlife
45 and how that works, because the reason I want to just
46 kind of refresh our memories because I know we did this
47 on the 9D caribou and it was Federal only until a
48 certain point the population increased and then it was
49 a Tier on the State side plus still the Federal

50

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1 continued. And I just probably explained the whole
2 thing to everybody.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But maybe if you
7 can -- is there just -- maybe so everybody understands
8 that better and clearly as we're talking, or setting
9 some sort of guidelines for this.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, there's options
12 and it depends how the, again, how the proposal comes
13 into OSM. This is Tom Doolittle, Deputy Assistant
14 Regional Director for OSM. Yeah, Federal registration
15 hunts, you know, could occur on the Federal public
16 lands with a quota system that's set and also community
17 harvest permits could be issued, for instance, out of
18 the village of False Pass, for instance, and so there
19 would be mechanisms to try to, you know, have it as,
20 you know, prescriptive just to Federally-qualified
21 users on Federal land with a limited amount of permits,
22 and then looking at about what -- you know, what would
23 be, you know, the success and the interest and then, of
24 course, you know, what the science is behind it on what
25 -- you know, what sort of quota would be, you know,
26 could be attained.

27
28 So, you know, I think -- but you're
29 also suggesting is that there's a fair amount of
30 homework that needs to go into the crafting of a
31 temporary special action like this.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think, you
36 know, when I made that initial information I didn't add
37 in everything I would want to add in. I would
38 certainly want in the proposal that this be based on
39 conservation concerns and harvestable surplus quotas
40 so, you know, it's based on scientific information
41 rather than just throwing it out there.

42
43 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
44 Chris.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

47
48 MS. PETERSON: I just wanted to quickly
49 put out there that what we did on this past, on the
50

1 Southern Peninsula Herd -- oh, my phone is really
2 echoing, I'm sorry, I hope that's not bothering all of
3 you. Was as soon as the Southern -- and as you all
4 know, the Southern Peninsula Herd crashed about the
5 same time as the Unimak Herd, in some ways it was
6 actually worse, and then the State removed the wolves
7 as Pat Holmes explained earlier and we had a tremendous
8 recovery, it was just -- it was what you want to have
9 happen. And as soon as that herd recovered to where we
10 had an appreciable surplus that was we could tell was,
11 you know, could be positive, we turned that over to
12 Izembek and for those first three, or possibly four
13 years, we -- we did not put that in as a State hunt, we
14 turned that over to the Refuge and let them administer
15 those permits how they saw fit, and we based all that
16 on our numbers and what we were learning every time we
17 went out there, and then the Refuge took that and
18 decided how to distribute those permits amongst the
19 public on the local villages. Only when the surplus
20 got up to a higher level did we open it up as a hunt
21 for the State. And perhaps you could use that in your
22 assessment of how to do this.

23
24 I just keep -- I'm not real comfortable
25 yet with maybe opening it this year or -- I would like
26 to see a little more time for that herd before we set
27 anyone loose in there to start hunting. That was not a
28 good word to use, I apologize for that, that's not at
29 all what I meant, I don't mean set them loose in there,
30 let people go in and begin hunting that herd.

31
32 I just would be far more comfortable if
33 we accomplished this next survey and look at the herd
34 then.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, if you
41 could hold on, Sam's got his hand up and then we'll
42 have you.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Can do.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

47
48 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. A
49 question, when is the next wildlife cycle? When do we
50

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1 have to have proposals in for the next wildlife cycle?

2

3 MS. PETERSON: To the State, is that
4 what you're asking?

5

6 MR. ROHRER: No, no, for the Federal
7 Subsistence Board.

8

9 MR. EVANS: So in a normal.....

10

11 MS. PETERSON: Oh, okay.

12

13 MR. EVANS:year, next year.....

14

15 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Okay.

16

17 MR. EVANS:it would be between
18 January, typically 15th through March 30th. This year
19 was a little bit unusual because of the change of the
20 Administration and so we had a very condensed period
21 from about June to July this year.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: The next wildlife
24 cycle is.....

25

26 MR. ROHRER: The next cycle for
27 actually putting in a proposal.

28

29 MR. EVANS: Would be next year between
30 January 15th and March 30th.

31

32 MR. ROHRER: Of '18 or of '19?

33

34 MR. EVANS: '19.

35

36 MR. ROHRER: '19, okay.

37

38 MR. EVANS: '19, yeah. Yeah.

39

40 MR. SCHWANTES: But then that wouldn't
41 go into effect until 2021.

42

43 MR. EVANS: That is correct. So for
44 the next two year cycle it would be 2021 to 2023.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
47 Pat, did you have a comment.

48

49 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, go
2 ahead, Rick.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Yeah, you know, I'm kind of
5 all for getting this caribou hunt started. It looks
6 like it's going to take us when we put this special
7 request in, that we're probably looking at a year
8 anyway before it takes place, and that would give
9 enough time for them to do their fall survey and then
10 we get into our January meeting or whenever we're going
11 to have our next meeting and wherever, we'll have this
12 in play and maybe we can act on it then according to
13 what the new surveys are and I think that probably
14 should be included into Tom's motion, which I think
15 he's going to do. So that would be my stand.

16
17 And I guess I got another question, is
18 this going to be for bulls only or is it cows, too?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm hearing most
21 likely.....

22
23 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
24 Chris.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, go ahead,
27 Chris.

28
29 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, I would certainly
30 hope it would be bulls only. And you're welcome -- you
31 know, you can always base it on numbers and trends and
32 just set the minimum that would trigger a hunt, just
33 set it above that 50 percent minimums, which would be
34 about 500 animals and then it would be a much safer bet
35 to permit some hunting. But, yeah, I would hope it
36 would cows only -- or excuse me, bulls only, sorry.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: When we're
39 talking about -- this is Della, timelines, and I'll
40 just hypothetically say, we pass a motion to start the
41 process for a special action, I mean nothing's going to
42 really happen on this for awhile. In the interim,
43 Chris, you said probably within the next three weeks
44 you're going to be out here doing surveys. Now, maybe
45 by December, January, March, with all due -- you know,
46 with all the stars aligning here, that Fish and
47 Wildlife will go get their winter survey done, but
48 still in the process there is the work that needs to be
49 done, the biological needs to be done, the paper --

50

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1 there's things in place that would be put in process, I
2 mean we'd be lucky to have a public hearing by probably
3 March or April of next year, 2018, if it gets passed it
4 -- if it does pass, it most likely will be in the
5 spring meeting, at the Federal Board meeting in the
6 spring, I believe in May, but whatever is put in place
7 isn't going to go into place until August 1 of 2018.

8
9 So that's where I'm trying to head with
10 this because if we wait for the wildlife cycle, which
11 we won't start that process until January 2019,
12 whatever is put into place will not go into effect
13 until 2021.

14
15 Is that correct?

16
17 MS. PETERSON: Oh, that makes perfect
18 sense then.

19
20 So with that in mind I would just be
21 careful to base your proposal on numbers and trends and
22 get it in place so that you could open it if it
23 continues as it looks, you know, you could have a hunt
24 within the next year or so. But if you -- as you said,
25 if you put it off then it's going to take another year.
26 So just base it on the numbers and on trends and what
27 we see when we get out there and we will turn those
28 numbers over to you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Chris.

32
33 Tom.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Della.

36
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah.....

38
39 MR. HOLMES: I've been in the que for
40 awhile, go ahead, Tom.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I'm sorry, Madame
45 Chair. But I think we're moving in the right
46 direction. In the past when we've had difficult things
47 like this, the Chair has assigned a few members of the
48 committee to frame the actual wording -- the specific
49 wording of a proposal, going from the guidance of the

50

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1 Council and I believe where we're at now is basically
2 with blending Tom's wording with something like in
3 anticipation of a continued herd growth on Unimak
4 Island, the Kodiak -- KRAC desires a plan developed
5 biased on the best science to provide for an expedient
6 and limited harvest of caribou bulls on Unimak Island
7 that would be restricted to residents of that community
8 or that island. Something like that that we could
9 spiffy that up a bit and then forward that to the
10 Federal Board. But, you know, maybe we could deal with
11 this in terms of a generalized comment and then, you
12 know, I would be glad to work with Tom on some specific
13 verbiage and bounce that off the Federal Tom and the
14 Federal Greg and then the State Chris to come up with
15 what would be workable so that we can achieve what
16 Becky has so succinctly stated, doing some preparatory
17 work so that we can have this on line if things
18 continue to improve.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

23
24 Tom.

25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, just going back
27 to the numbers. My proposal was based on the fact that
28 the numbers we were given last year said there were 330
29 animals in that herd and that the -- and the numbers
30 from this year showed that there were 33 bulls per 100
31 cows and 40 calves per 100 cows, so certainly that herd
32 is growing and I think we can establish a subsistence
33 hunt out there.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

36
37 (Teleconference interruption -
38 participant phones not muted)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Somebody's got
41 their mic on, we hear some paper shuffling.

42
43 All right, we have a motion on the
44 floor and it's been seconded.

45
46 MR. SCHWANTES: Call for the question.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
49 called. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
9 So we have some work to do.
10
11 I'd like to take a 10 minute break
12 maybe and then we'll move on, does that sound good. We
13 should wrap up in the next hour from what's left here.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (On record)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The next item on
20 the agenda will be the OSM, Tom Doolittle, and we will
21 continue after that to the Council's annual report,
22 confirming meetings, closing comments and adjourn.
23
24 So we will -- OSM will be the next item
25 on the agenda.
26
27 (Pause)
28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For those of you
30 on line Tom is getting set up so it will just be a
31 minute.
32
33 (Pause)
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair and
36 Regional Advisory Council. Tom Doolittle, Deputy
37 Assistant Regional Director for OSM.
38
39 First I'd like to make my sincerest
40 thanks to this Regional Advisory Council for the
41 opportunity to report. For the hospitality of the
42 Refuge. It's really been great to have the support of
43 the Refuge and to get out to Cold Bay again. The
44 community of Cold Bay for this center and involvement,
45 and the public for attending this meeting. And I
46 promise, Della, I'll be brief, and hopefully get you on
47 a plane.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm on weather
50

1 hold.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Usually in these
4 reports, as I've been told, one is about Staff changes
5 at OSM. We've had three Staff changes. One has been
6 -- and we've had three hires.

7

8 Jennifer Hardin, Christine Brummer and
9 myself.

10

11 Jennifer was an internal lateral
12 transfer. We had a vacant policy coordinator position
13 and we moved her from the lead of anthropology into the
14 policy coordinator. Jennifer's been a real quick study
15 of ANILCA and is truly an expert at subsistence law and
16 policy. She has her PhD from University of Illinois in
17 anthropology. And she has experience with multi
18 Federal agencies and tribal entities. In a prior life
19 she was an American Indian Liaison and Park
20 anthropologist at Yosemite National Park and her
21 present job within OSM and as the Anthropology Division
22 Supervisor and was an acting Fishery Division
23 Supervisor gave her the breadth of experience to excel
24 at the position of policy coordinator. But since she
25 transferred inside that means that we will have a
26 vacancy for the anthropology lead position that will be
27 coming up and advertised hopefully, one day, soon. And
28 I'll explain that.

29

30 Christine Brummer, she was hired as a
31 pathways student and while she's attending UAA as an
32 anthropology student. This pathways program is a
33 bridge to permanent Federal employment after school.
34 She was born and raised in Alaska. She reigns from
35 Anchorage. She has two bachelors degrees, one of them
36 is in anthropology and she's pursuing her master's
37 degree in anthropology at UAA.

38

39 As many of you know I took Chuck
40 Ardizzone's position and I started in February and I
41 was asked by Staff to give you a very short bio. So
42 starting from the age of five.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. DOOLITTLE:no, I won't do
47 that to you because I know that Della has to get on a
48 plane.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm not going
2 anywhere, we're on weather hold.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, okay. Well, then
5 I.....

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Start at the age of
10 two.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: So anyway I started my
13 career with the National Park Service, you know, after
14 I got out of diapers. And then working for 12 years --
15 later after that I worked for 12 years as a Fish and
16 Wildlife biologist and program supervisor, as a law
17 enforcement supervisor and game warden for the Bad
18 River Band of Lake Superior Tribe Chippewa Indians.
19 This included the reservation, Western Lake Superior
20 tribal commercial fisheries on Lake Superior and home
21 use fisheries and the seated territories of Michigan,
22 Wisconsin and Minnesota. So sometimes the reservations
23 and jurisdiction are quite a bit different and large
24 and different sets of laws in the Lower 48 than in
25 Alaska.

26
27 Then I came and I was hired by Michael
28 Reardon at Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge as a
29 supervisory wildlife biologist and later became the
30 Deputy Refuge Manager at Yukon-Delta where I was
31 stationed in Bethel. After seven years in Western
32 Alaska I went back to Wisconsin to reconnect with five
33 new grandchildren and conducted a short-tailed grouse
34 restoration project for the US Forest Service and once
35 I had that program secure and running I went to the
36 Tongass National Forest supervising the fish, wildlife
37 subsistence and watershed program on Prince of Wales
38 Island in Southeast Alaska.

39
40 And then through the shuffle starting
41 in December I accepted my position at OSM.

42
43 So it's really good to really be back
44 working primarily with subsistence and it's something
45 that I've done, really whether I was at Bad River
46 working for the tribe or here for the last 35 years, so
47 it's just been an honor to come to you and to be able
48 to serve the public and the Board and the RACs.

49
50

1 We also have had one other Staff
2 member, Palma Ingles, has retired as an anthropologist
3 and Don Rivard has retired from our fisheries Staff
4 after 32 years of service.

5
6 So we are -- and then last, but not
7 least, Sabrina Schmitt at our front desk, her husband
8 was reassigned to a duty station in Las Vegas so we've
9 lost one of our front desk Staff. So we're down four
10 positions and essentially as you listened to Greg we're
11 in a hiring freeze. We will attempt also to get
12 waivers but they need to go to headquarters in
13 Washington, D.C., as he explained, so it doesn't matter
14 whether you're OSM or Refuges or Migratory Birds, we're
15 all under the same constraints for hiring people.
16 And if I'm really going to be optimistic it's going to
17 at least take a year to see many of these positions
18 filled. And -- but sometimes the process changes
19 quickly and we can see things happen quicker than we
20 think.

21
22 We also, you know, again, with changes
23 of Administration, as you might know, that the Board
24 had approved the fishery regulations back in January,
25 we're still waiting for Interior to approve those
26 regulations to be put in the Federal Register. There's
27 been heavy scrutiny of all regulations passed within
28 the last 90 days of the past Administration and so this
29 review has taken a long time. The regulations are at
30 the printer and need to be in the Register before we
31 can print or essentially we cannot enforce the
32 regulations. All previous regulations are in effect
33 since the new regulations are considered revisions of
34 past regulation.

35
36 On the positive side is that OSM is
37 that we have the wildlife cycle and the RACs are
38 meeting and our Board can meet and so, again, to have a
39 wildlife cycle it had to be put in the Federal Register
40 and go through the formal process so parts of the
41 Program are functioning as usual and so I am happy
42 about that. So not all of it has stalled.

43
44 The other part of the good news is that
45 the preliminary budgets, at least for OSMs program in
46 the coming year looks about the same as last years.
47 The President's budget and the recently passed House
48 budget for subsistence looks very similar for both the
49 Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service for next
50

1 year. It's still contingent on the Senate and the
2 President for a go on our final budget and we are on a
3 continuing resolution basically spending about a
4 percent below last years funding level until early
5 December when, hopefully, the Senate will act on a
6 final budget.

7
8 There is still the possibility of large
9 cuts but so far so good of our base operations. We
10 have had a lot of support from representatives and the
11 public for the Federal Subsistence Program and what we
12 do in rural Alaska and so that's really assisted our
13 bottom line and all of you have helped us in what I
14 consider to be one of the most important of the
15 programs that I've been involved with within my career.

16
17 I'd like to thank our Staff, who's put
18 together lots of these meetings, they just have been a
19 real joy to work with and a can-do group of people, our
20 partners, agencies, the RACs and the public as a whole.

21
22 As I stated yesterday we are a bottom
23 up program. You all are part of one of the world's
24 best examples of wildlife and fishery management.

25
26 So at this time I'm available to answer
27 any of your questions.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
30 Do we have any comments or questions for Tom at this
31 time.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I told them they
36 can't raise their hand.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Della, love you man.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, thank you.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If it's okay
49 with the Council, I had a request to move Leticia
50

1 Melendez up -- or from -- to add her from Izembek to
2 talk a little bit about the migratory bird calendar
3 before we move on.

4
5 MS. MELENDEZ: Good afternoon, Madame
6 Chair and Council. My name is Leticia Melendez and I'm
7 the Deputy Refuge Manager at Izembek. And that's L-E-
8 T-I-C-I-A M-E-L-E-N-D-E-Z.

9
10 REPORTER: Thank you.

11
12 MS. MELENDEZ: So I just wanted to
13 share how we do the Migratory Bird Calendar Contest.
14 As part of the report that Greg gave we did talk a
15 little bit about some of the outreach programs and one
16 of the ones that have been really fun to work on since
17 I've been employed with Izembek has been the migratory
18 bird calendar contest. And if you all are not familiar
19 with it I'll just give you a little bit of an insight
20 on that.

21
22 The migratory bird calendar contest is
23 a contest that includes the adjacent communities, which
24 would be for us, our participating communities; King
25 Cove, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point, Cold
26 Bay when the school was open was also a part of the
27 migratory bird calendar contest, but as of April 2015
28 when it was closed it enabled for the entry for the
29 kids, however, they do have home school entries and so
30 I'm a little bit excited about that. This coming year
31 we're going to start facilitating those entries.

32
33 So I had Karen Deatherage pass out our
34 2018 migratory bird calendar entries and statewide
35 winners. So if I can ask the Council and those on the
36 line if they wouldn't mind just for a moment taking the
37 time to envision the kids, the eyes of the kids and how
38 they felt when they did this last migratory bird
39 calendar contest and the theme for it was called:
40 Migratory Birds Bring Me. We have different age groups
41 that are included in this contest. That's from K2, 3-
42 5th, 6th-8th and 9-12th. We have posters and
43 literatures that are submitted in and have winners for
44 both of those entries. So some of the real interesting
45 and insightful entries we got from the students
46 included:

47
48 Migratory Birds Bring Me:

49
50

1	From left to right.
2	
3	Eggs and babies
4	
5	Science
6	
7	Songs
8	
9	Peace
10	
11	Summer
12	
13	Outside fun
14	
15	Ideas
16	
17	Beauty
18	
19	Bliss
20	
21	Great interest
22	
23	Elegant hello
24	
25	Peace
26	
27	Hope
28	
29	New skills
30	
31	Eggs
32	
33	Serenity
34	
35	Beautiful songs
36	
37	Joy, peace, happiness
38	
39	Wonder
40	
41	Beauty
42	
43	Peace
44	
45	Music
46	
47	A wild imagination
48	
49	Tidings of spring
50	

1 Excitement
2
3 Opportunity
4
5 Inspiration
6
7 Stories
8
9 Joy
10
11 Intelligence
12
13 Ocean beauty
14
15 Joy
16

17 To me, that right there is an
18 inspiration from the kids that are participating in the
19 migratory bird calendar contest and it's just an
20 amazing and fun outreach program.

21
22 The next year's program is going to
23 have the theme Birds Bouncing Back Conservation Works.

24
25 So this next year what we will do is we
26 will start submitting our theme to the schools, the
27 local schools that will be participating and the
28 teachers will work with the students and help them
29 understand the importance of the migration, even some
30 of the experiences that they experience as children
31 when they're out in the outdoors and cultural
32 experience as well. And once we get those posters in
33 and literatures in we have those submitted into the
34 Refuge and at that time we have some of the locals do
35 an actual judging contest and we pick the best, out of
36 each grade category, and then we have a manager's
37 choice, which in this case Greg would actually pick a
38 manager's choice and then it's submitted to the State,
39 where they do a statewide contest and thereafter, once
40 the statewide winners are chosen those entries go into
41 the new calendar which would be the calendar for 2019.

42
43 And so the total poster entries for
44 Izembek for 2018 was 51 posters and nine literatures.
45 And we're hoping to get some more home schooled entries
46 this year.

47
48 We have an SEA that came through and
49 started working with us in the maintenance arena and he
50

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1 has expressed some interest in the public arena, public
2 outreach arena and he's going to be working with Sara
3 Griffith at the Alaska Maritime -- or Alaska Peninsula
4 -- correct -- Alaska Peninsula and they're going to be
5 doing a migratory bird calendar contest workshop and
6 they're going to facilitate this new theme for 2019
7 which is Birds Bouncing Back, Conservation Works, and
8 they're going to go out to the schools and implement
9 this and help them understand the importance of the
10 migration and conservation and how conservation can
11 bring birds back and help them put that on paper,
12 whether it be through a poster or whether it be through
13 literature and then he's going to bring back that
14 program after they work together on it and we're going
15 to try and implement that here locally for the Cold Bay
16 kids that are home schooled and in addition to the
17 other communities that we work with.

18
19 So we're really looking forward to
20 implementing that.

21
22 Then the next year at the December
23 timeframe we'll get those calendars and distribute
24 those calendars and we distribute about 18,000 of those
25 calendars once we get them. So it's an exciting
26 outreach program that we work with the communities on.
27 There are other Refuges that are part of this Alaska
28 migratory bird calendar contest that include Alaska
29 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
30 Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, Arctic
31 National Wildlife Refuge, Kodiak National Wildlife
32 Refuge, Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife
33 Refuge, North Slope Field Offices, Selawik, Tetlin,
34 Togiak, Yukon-Delta and Yukon Flats all National
35 Wildlife Refuges that participate in the migratory bird
36 calendar bird calendar contest.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
41 Leticia. Is there any comments for Leticia.

42
43 Coral.

44
45 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I just want to
46 thank you guys for being involved in this out here.
47 It's a fun little program. I had the pleasure of
48 judging in Kodiak. And I also want to note that
49 there's two Old Harbor students on here that made the
50

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1 statewide managers prime picks. So we want to say good
2 job to Old Harbor.

3
4 I just wanted to share one of our
5 favorites in the room was -- so they did Migratory
6 Birds Bring Me, and I believe it was a young man maybe
7 did a Migratory Birds bring me soup, and the picture
8 was great and we all just loved it. But it was a lot
9 of fun judging and there was also -- in the literature
10 department, we all talked about what an incredible
11 amount of information that these kids were conveying.
12 So shout out to the teachers and the people who are
13 involved in this, that also were giving a lot of
14 information, the kids are really learning a lot.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, Coral, for
19 that.

20
21 Also if I may add, Madame Chair and
22 Council. The award that Della presented yesterday by
23 Tom Doolittle actually had some of that artwork from
24 one of the students, Nichole Gould, who was also in the
25 migratory bird calendar contest, so these talents are
26 very skilled -- these kids are very skilled and it's
27 very interesting and inspiring to see what kind of
28 artwork and literature that they can produce so we're
29 happy to do this program.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. The
34 kids, I know, in King Cove, get pretty excited about it
35 and they bring it home for homework and they do them
36 and it's pretty amazing how artistic they are and their
37 imagination. It really tickles me to see what they put
38 on paper.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Annual
45 report, Council. I think we kind of talked a little
46 bit about this. So I guess it starts on Page 52 in
47 this book.

48
49 I'm thinking, and correct me if I'm
50

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1 wrong anybody but if I go down this list, the Council
2 meeting Unalaska, that's not something we're going to
3 do anything with, that's done.

4
5 You got issue number 2, Council
6 coordination, that was recognizing Karen, I believe
7 that's been completed.

8
9 Number 3, the NWRS resource
10 technicians, the RITs Izembek, Tonya and Kodiak, is
11 that something this Council wants to make sure that we
12 maintain in the future, to leave that one on there.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Madame Chair. That
15 is something I had on my list for items to include in
16 the annual report. I wrote down RIT and research
17 biologist at Kodiak and also biologist or research
18 biologist, however that's called, at Izembek. But I
19 think those could either be combined into one paragraph
20 or split out, Kodiak versus Izembek, or put the RITs in
21 one paragraph and the research biologists in another.
22 But I think that this -- it is important that we
23 emphasize to the Board, and then I'm sure they'll
24 forward our requests on to the appropriate agencies
25 that these are both very important functions that we
26 need at the Refuges.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Rebecca, that's correct.

32
33 Number 4, was final rule on non-
34 subsistence take of wildlife on Alaska National
35 Wildlife Refuges, is there something -- I don't think
36 we need to do anything on that. That's over with.

37
38 Number 5, Emperor geese update, do we
39 want to keep up with that.

40
41 Melissa.

42
43 MS. BERNS: I think that with the new
44 hunt I would like to see it on there as a priority to
45 keep updated as harvest information is available. It's
46 just such a new hunt that's good to keep abreast of.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: I think it's important for
6 us to continue with the philosophical statement or the
7 intent to try to get that spring season changed, they
8 basically said, gee it's going to take a long time, but
9 I think we should keep poking away and have a
10 continuing statement that we feel that that needs to be
11 addressed and if it can't be done through them, I know
12 Coral has -- and the Sun'aq folks and it'd be good for
13 the other tribes in our region to weigh in on AMBCC to
14 try to change some of those treaties and things because
15 I remember back when I was in high school, '60/61 or
16 whatever, when the fall/spring hunt was so contentious
17 and, you know, it took years for it to evolve to having
18 any kind of spring hunt. But when they established
19 those parameters for when it would occur, it was
20 basically done for Western and Northwest Alaska and,
21 you know, our RAC region was pretty much not even
22 considered at the time. So I think we need to keep
23 batting away on that one.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

28

29 Rebecca and then Coral.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: I don't disagree that we
32 should keep the Emperor goose issue, well, specifically
33 the change in the season dates, that that is important
34 to the region, my concern is that I don't think that
35 issue has been fully vetted through, at least, the
36 Kodiak -- the regional AMBCC subcommittee, however you
37 call that, and I guess I have hesitation at this
38 Council here today putting forward a recommendation to
39 change something when it hasn't even been through the
40 more region specific committees that actually are in
41 the AMBCC reporting chain, or however. And Coral might
42 have more comments on this. So I would prefer to not
43 have it in our report until the regional groups
44 actually have a chance to talk about it.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

47

48 Coral.

49

50

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1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold up Pat,
4 I'll have Coral and then you.
5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's fine.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.
9
10 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess, I mean
11 I'm okay with leaving this in but I also want us to
12 recognize that maybe what we need to do is in response,
13 the Board forwarded our concerns to the US Fish and
14 Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Program, and so maybe
15 that's the direction we need to go, is to there and to
16 the AMBCC, but I don't mind leaving this in. But if we
17 really are looking for a response or to do something, I
18 think that's the direction to go.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
21 Coral.
22
23 Pat.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with Coral.
26 That's the direction I was going to go. Because we did
27 raise the question before it really got discussed a lot
28 at the AMBCC, but I think everyone's pulling in the
29 same direction so I think Coral's comment, if we could
30 develop a generic phrase along those lines I think that
31 that would be good. Because we need to -- or in my
32 mind let the Federal Board know and all the other
33 agencies that are involved in this that Kodiak and the
34 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians were kind of left out and
35 they need to address that.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.
40
41 MS. BERNS: No, it's covered.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, she says
44 it's covered.
45
46 All right, the next item was non-rural
47 determination and I do believe that's been resolved.
48
49 Number 7 was funding for cattle and
50

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1 caribou removal on Alaska Maritime. I believe that, at
2 this point, has been resolved.

3
4 So adding new items.

5
6 MS. BERNS: Izembek turnover should be
7 on there.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, yes, one of
10 the things we kind of added in our discussion I thought
11 would be -- I think the -- and having some discussion
12 also with Tom and Greg and then in my -- in talking
13 earlier I think is looking at the retention and ways we
14 can try to get people -- the recruitment and getting
15 people hired and, you know, one of the things too is
16 working closely with the city, you know, trying to get
17 people that actually have children, if they're
18 interested in getting the school opened, you know, work
19 closely with the community in trying to figure out how
20 we can get things in place so hopefully your family
21 will move here Greg.....

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:and you'll
26 be here longer than one year.

27
28 But just something -- you know, not
29 negatively, but how we can possibly enhance or be able
30 to promote so that's achieved. And I think all the
31 positions in the Refuge, they're so important and when
32 we lose them it has an impact on what everybody does.

33
34 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: I would like to see an
39 item added about the better outreach for the
40 consultation process. In my initial comments yesterday
41 I noted that I had called into the tribal and the ANCSA
42 consultations and the participation -- and, again,
43 there were multiple regions so not just the KRAC, maybe
44 there were four or five different regions that were on
45 a call, and the participation by tribes and ANCSA
46 Corporations was very, very sparse, I mean maybe one
47 for each of the calls, and they had tribes on one call
48 and ANCSA on the other call. It seems like it's a
49 really good opportunity that -- I would really like

50

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1 tribes and corporations to take advantage of and for
2 whatever reason they either don't see the value of it
3 or they didn't know about it or they don't understand
4 what the point of it is or how it works. So I would
5 like to see better outreach and education about that
6 process.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
9 Rebecca.

10
11 Any other items that the Council would
12 like to add.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, did we kind
17 of generally talk about making sure the caribou stays
18 on this.

19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm sorry, I didn't
21 hear you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did we not --
24 remember last year we were talking about making sure --
25 it was after we had already did our letter, but to
26 also, I think to list how important monitoring,
27 continuing on the work on the caribou in Units 9D and
28 10 remain a part of our annual report, the importance
29 of it.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I was
32 going to include information on that along with the
33 request for the biologist at Izembek and the ability
34 for the biologist to get out and survey the caribou so
35 that's what I have listed.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: As well as waterfowl.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
42 Rebecca.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: So I'll bring this up
45 here. I can see the value of including it in the
46 annual report, but maybe it's more appropriately
47 handled differently.

48
49 I would like to have some sort of
50

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1 communication or note thanking all of the agencies for
2 their participation and information that they provide,
3 but also requesting or reminding the agencies how
4 important it is to have materials submitted in our
5 books. So if there is a deadline to submit written
6 materials, that they endeavor to meet that deadline.
7 If they can't meet the deadline for the book, then at
8 least submit written materials prior to the meeting so
9 that when we get to the meeting we have the written
10 information.

11
12 And, today, we heard a lot of data and
13 statistics from a couple of the presenters and it's a
14 lot easier, at least for me, to really digest that
15 information if I can see it on a piece of paper and not
16 just keep track of all the numbers that are being given
17 verbally.

18
19 The reason I think this could be in the
20 report is that if the Federal Subsistence Board sends
21 the communication to the agencies I think that could
22 carry more weight, otherwise, perhaps it could be taken
23 care of through a letter from the Council. But having
24 the information and having it in a timely manner is
25 very important to this process.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
30 other items.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat
33 here.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: I concur with both of
38 Becky's comments there on outreach and consultation. I
39 usually try to call folks in the villages, I don't
40 always get it done, or send emails, and the one little
41 bump back I got from an area is that they saw it in the
42 paper but I wondered, do these notices do they go to
43 the individual tribes and to the individual
44 corporations. I'm glad that Tom Lance was able to be
45 here for part of it for Sun'aq, but, you know,
46 something's lost.

47
48 And I think the written materials idea
49 is exemplary, to have that, because particularly, you
50

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1 know, Karen is really good on forwarding that down so I
2 could get it while we're down here for family things
3 and I think that's swell.

4
5 One of the notes I had somewhere I had
6 enforcement and that was something we were chatting
7 about earlier, a recommendation for provisions for
8 enforcement at Cold Bay and the Peninsula but I don't
9 know exactly. I'm afraid my brain is fading.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

14
15 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I don't know
16 whether it needs to go in the annual report or not but
17 it might be a good idea to put it in there. But one of
18 the things I would certainly like to see is, you know,
19 when we have these big issues we're dealing with, like
20 this caribou issue, boy, I'd sure like to see those
21 people sitting at the table here instead of trying to
22 communicate over the phone because you just -- you
23 know, we just lose so much and you lose that ability to
24 interact. So I'd sure like to see them sitting here at
25 the table.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
28 other items. Karen, do you got all that.

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: I've got it all.
31 Madame Chair, yes, I do, thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 Karen. The next item on the -- oh, I'm sorry, go
35 ahead.

36
37 Coral.

38
39 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess one more thing.
40 I guess I would like to -- I know when we went to the
41 All Councils meeting we had talked about how important
42 we felt like all that training was that we got and I
43 think we had talked about it a little bit afterwards,
44 but perhaps requesting training more frequently for new
45 members in order to understand the process, understand
46 what are their responsibilities on this Council are,
47 what are their responsibilities, what are not their
48 responsibilities. Sort of how things move through, how
49 processes move through, maybe an introduction to Staff.

50

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1 Maybe having the training in Anchorage, where I assume
2 all the Staff is mostly. I know it makes a big
3 difference when I, myself, can meet Staff and know who
4 Staff are.

5
6 But I think it's really helpful in
7 understanding and being more efficient in this whole
8 process.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, with
15 your permission, I'd like to respond to Coral's
16 recommendation.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: In the past what the
21 Council generally -- or what the Council coordinators
22 generally did was give a one to two hour training for
23 any new Council members that joined and we would do it
24 on site at the actual Council meeting, wherever it was
25 held. Last January, for the first time, we did an
26 intensive two day training for all new Council members
27 that were just appointed by the Secretary of the
28 Interior for our Regional Advisory Councils. It was
29 fantastic. We didn't have any new members from the
30 Kodiak Council so nobody was there for that. We're
31 hopeful that we will be able to continue to have the
32 funding and the capacity to do that because it was very
33 productive and as Coral said, it's really great to meet
34 all the Staff and to learn about the different aspects
35 we have in our office, as well as just the whole
36 Federal system in general and how to, you know, operate
37 within that system.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, along with that,
44 has there been any planning or thoughts about another
45 All Council meeting?

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Schwantes,
48 through the Chair. We were looking at possibly having
49 one every five years. It is a huge expense to bring in
50

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1 everybody but the payoff, we thought, was tremendous.
2 But right now we're on a five year schedule and with
3 the current budgets, they may get better, they may not
4 get better, but it's certainly what we are looking for,
5 is within a five year period after the last one, to
6 have another.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: I'd like to add an item
13 to the annual report related to sea otters. We keep
14 hearing that sea otters are a problem. And maybe if we
15 phrase it in terms of could the Federal Subsistence
16 Board let us know what are some logical steps we can
17 take. I understand otters are not under the Federal
18 Subsistence Board, however, multiple regions, multiple
19 RACs have brought up sea otters, so perhaps there's an
20 opportunity to have some kind of joint discussions or
21 joint working group or something with other regions.

22
23 The other thing that I think would be
24 useful for the next -- for the February meeting is to
25 invite representatives from the Sea Otter Commission,
26 whether it's actual commissioners or if it's Staff that
27 support the Commission to come in and talk about what
28 they do, their current status, current commissioners
29 and help us better understand what -- how we could
30 better interact or work with the Commission.

31
32 And also it's been a few years since
33 we've had a presentation on the sea otter population.
34 I think a big part of that was, was it McCrea who did
35 the -- he was a biologist that did the sea otter
36 numbers and then he left and I don't know that, around
37 Kodiak, that that biologist was replaced, so we haven't
38 had actual data on the populations or harvest surveys.
39 So as far as I know we haven't seen data on sea otter
40 harvest around Kodiak.

41
42 So I don't think that this is a fully
43 formed, this is what we're asking the Federal
44 Subsistence Board to do, but I do think keeping it on
45 the radar that it is an issue and then lining up some
46 presentations and information for our February meeting
47 would help move us in a productive direction.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. Member Skinner, if you recall this was requested
3 too at the last meeting in Kodiak but because we met in
4 Cold Bay we thought it would be more appropriate to
5 hold presentations on sea otters in Kodiak in the
6 winter, so there are plans to bring in individuals to
7 look at data and harvest surveys as well as the members
8 of the Sea Otter Commission, to invite them to speak to
9 the Council on the issue. So we're definitely planning
10 on bringing that to the table.

11
12 But I also think, the annual report, is
13 generally a report to the Board on issues that are
14 outside the regulatory issues, so it is perfectly
15 appropriate and if you want me to I will put this in
16 the report to let them know that you are seeking to
17 bring this issue to their attention.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Pat.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would like to add
28 on to Rebecca's comments there and I think you could
29 add in, Karen, a brief anecdote that it's been about
30 five or six years we've been trying to -- had hoped to
31 have some research on sea otters and crab in Womens
32 Bay, which was the last area (phone cuts out) king
33 crab, and I think you could safely say and Tom would
34 probably support me, those sea otters have basically
35 eliminated the dungeness and the king crabs from that
36 bay and so it's no longer a problem because they ate
37 them. And that's just sort of a little story footnote
38 for the reinforcement for getting together with them.

39
40 Thank you, very much.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.

43
44 MS. BERNS: Yeah, I would like to talk
45 in support of that as well. It's been a continued
46 issue that's been brought to our attention, not only
47 for Womens Bay but the other villages on the north and
48 the west side of the island, members of those
49 communities, Larsen Bay, Port Lions and Ouzinkie, they

50

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1 have to go much further to subsist for shellfish. A
2 lot of the clam beds have pretty much been wiped out
3 due to the sea otter populations. And so it's a big
4 concern for subsistence users.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is that
7 good.

8
9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think
12 so.

13
14 We'll go ahead and move on to confirm
15 winter 2018 meeting dates. Is there a calendar I could
16 look at in here.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. The
19 calendar is on Page 82 in the meeting book, I hope.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's 83. The
24 Council is currently scheduled to meet February 21st
25 and 22nd in Kodiak.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam, go ahead.

28
29 MR. ROHRER: I would love it if we
30 could move those dates. That's right during the Board
31 of Game meetings and so that might affect at least
32 having some Kodiak -- well, it could affect having some
33 Staff there but the Board of Game meeting is the 16th
34 through the 23rd. I'd prefer to have this meeting the
35 next week or earlier.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: I wonder could we, going
42 off Sam's thought there because I know a lot of the
43 Staff will be gone for that week and then they'll
44 probably be important to our discussions on the updates
45 on the Peninsula caribou, and just on a personal basis,
46 it's really tough to teleconference and that's the week
47 of my, I think, my granddaughter's birthday and if it
48 were moved to a little later in the month that would be
49 really handy to be able to go out and see here.

50

1 So, thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I would certainly
6 agree with moving it back a week. Because this will
7 probably interfere with my ability to be here due to my
8 work schedule on the Slope so if we could move it back
9 a week it would be much better.

10
11 MR. KOSO: It looks like the 15th and
12 16th, that looks like a good time, Thursday and Friday,
13 I don't see anybody there.

14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I
16 realize people are looking for the following week, we
17 already have two Council meetings scheduled for that
18 week so we wouldn't have the Staff to support having a
19 Council meeting. The week before we only have one
20 Council meeting and we could do the 14th and 15th,
21 which would allow for anybody who might want to go to
22 the Board of Game meeting that starts on the 16th to
23 attend that meeting. Would that be something that the
24 Council would be interested in.

25
26 It's my birthday week so you'll also
27 have to have cake.

28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

32
33 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, that won't work
34 for me, I'll be on the Slope.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Well, if any of the other
37 Councils change, it would sure handier for me to have
38 it later, but I can go with the flow and I got my handy
39 flip-phone.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, if we look at
44 that next week, that first week in March, if you look
45 on the calendar Bristol Bay has their first option for
46 that week but their second option is for the week of
47 March 14th, so maybe we could see if they would take
48 their second option and take that week.

49
50

1 MR. ROHRER: Bump Bristol Bay.

2

3 MS. BERNS: That's an issue for Karen.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, you want me to
6 bump, no Sam is going to do it.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. HOLMES: That'd be swell.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I can
13 certainly ask the coordinator to see if a decision has
14 been finalized for that and if not we could sweep in
15 and take the first option, the dates of February 27th
16 and 28th. The only other thing is you could move the
17 current meeting of February 21st and 22nd into the 23rd
18 and 24th. There's nothing to say that we cannot hold a
19 meeting on the weekend but that may be difficult for
20 some people. So that's another option if we can't get
21 that Bristol Bay date.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Well, how about their
24 second option in March.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. We
29 could just wait to see which one Bristol Bay takes and
30 if the Council was available both of those timeframes
31 then we'll just slip in on the ones that Bristol Bay is
32 not going to be using.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And then
35 do we keep in mind is it the ANSEP wanting to tie in
36 their meetings round ours, did I hear that correctly?

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, you did.
39 And they were looking at February 22nd, so I don't know
40 if anybody is still on the phone but I can certainly
41 touch base with them to see if it would be problematic
42 to reschedule that according to when the Council is
43 meeting.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. The
46 reason I bring that up, I think it's very important for
47 both of our regions, just with that information they
48 had on there, but in any way we can try to coordinate
49 with that would be great.

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. My
2 impression was when they first contacted me about the
3 EarthScope Program was that they were, in fact, trying
4 to tie it in with the RAC meeting so it wasn't tied
5 into something that they specifically had in mind but
6 they were trying to make sure they were there when you
7 were there. So hopefully that still stands and they
8 can match one of those two timeframes.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
11 what were the dates then -- what did we decide?

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. SCHWANTES: One of the Bristol Bay
16 dates.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then I guess
19 my question would be then location.

20
21 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry, Madame Chair,
22 can you clarify the dates we're looking at again, our
23 first and second choice.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The first
26 choice, I understand is February 27th or 28th, which is
27 Bristol Bay's first choice. If they go ahead and take
28 that we'll take their second choice which is March 13th
29 and 14th.

30
31 Is that correct?

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Madame Chair,
34 that's correct.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And then
37 in Kodiak; is that correct?

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Madame Chair,
40 that's correct. And that would be particularly
41 important this time because of the EarthScope Program
42 because it will be focused out of Kodiak, plus the sea
43 otter issue.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Then we'll move
48 on to the fall meetings.

49
50

1 Tom.
2
3 MR. SCHWANTES: If we're at fall I
4 would like to see us keep basically the same dates we
5 have right now, same timeframe, basically, 18th or 19th
6 of September or 19th and 20th of September and I'd like
7 to see us meet in Sand Point, if possible.
8
9 MR. KOSO: What about Adak, Tom.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. SCHWANTES: Adak's fine with me,
14 Rick.
15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
17
18 MR. KOSO: I don't think that's going
19 to happen but I thought I'd throw that in there.
20
21 MR. HOLMES: Atka's nice in the fall
22 too.
23
24 MR. KOSO: Sand Point should be fine
25 for me.
26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think the Council,
28 through the Chair, needs to make a decision and put a
29 motion out on the dates and location of where they'd
30 like to meet so we can get it on the record.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.
35
36 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, a motion for the
37 fall meeting to be in Sand Point on the 18th and 19th
38 of September.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: Second.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made and
43 second.
44
45 Discussion.
46
47 MS. BERNES: Call for.....
48
49 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.
50

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1 MS. BERNS:question.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Rebecca.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Karen, can you give us a
7 sense of the likelihood of getting a meeting in Sand
8 Point since it's not a hub, and I understand in
9 budgetary constrained times we're supposed to meet in
10 the hubs and I'm not saying that should change our
11 decision of where we ask to meet but I'd like to have a
12 realistic sense of where we're probably going to meet.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, Member
15 Skinner. Through the Chair. The likelihood is low and
16 not just because of budget, because the other issue
17 that we're seeing that will possibly is travel
18 restrictions, sometimes they will put caps on our
19 travel. And so in that same thought, though, I think
20 that the Council should ask, but be prepared that the
21 meeting will likely be in Kodiak. Our current
22 Assistant Regional Director has kind of based meetings
23 outside the hub once every three years. If you recall
24 we met in Dutch Harbor, which was not a hub community,
25 and even though Cold Bay is a hub community, it's
26 extremely expensive to bring the Council here, so the
27 likelihood in all honesty is not good that we could go
28 to Sand Point. But I think it's important to go ahead
29 and get it on the record and ask for it.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I recommend we
34 put this on the record and ask for it.

35

36 For one, I'll tell you, it's cheaper to
37 go to Sand Point from Anchorage than it is to go to
38 Anchorage to Cold Bay.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: It is?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Very -- a lot
43 cheaper. That being one. And I am going to go into
44 this again and I've gone into this before, we
45 technically have two regions, Kodiak/Aleutians,
46 basically you're saying -- it's been said that our hub
47 is Kodiak, and I've heard that before. And we've tried
48 to make the case that Cold Bay is, mainly Cold Bay
49 because of the Izembek Refuge, but we also think it's

50

1 important when we travel to the various villages to get
2 the input from the people that we so need, that benefit
3 and be able to speak to this program.

4
5 Karen, you know, I'm not giving you
6 this lecture, you know, this, but I want it to go on
7 record that I -- our winter meeting is Kodiak, our fall
8 meeting is in the Aleutians.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair. Can we
11 actually -- sorry to go back to the annual report, but
12 could we actually add that to our annual report,
13 something about either -- I doubt we'll eliminate the
14 concept of hubs, but let's throw it in there, or as a
15 topic to identify what our hubs should be, because I
16 don't think Cold Bay -- Cold Bay is great, but I don't
17 think -- I mean it's not really where the people are.
18 So I think that should not be considered one of our
19 hubs. If we're going to be stuck with hubs then it
20 should be hubs where we can actually reach the most
21 people.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Well, about -- this is
24 Pat, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: It seems to me about five
29 or six years ago our hub, as far as the Peninsula
30 Aleutians were Sand Point and Cold Bay and then we'd
31 alternate between the two. But since we've had such a
32 big turnover in the Anchorage office, that's definitely
33 shifted or gotten lost.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, I think
36 agree add it to the annual report.

37
38 Tom, did you have a comment, did you
39 have your hand raised.

40
41 (No comment)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The
44 recommendation, or the motion has been made and
45 seconded, I believe, to have the meeting the 17th, 18th
46 and 19th in Sand Point and at this point no alternative
47 site has been selected.

48
49 MS. BERNS: Do we need to designate an
50

1 alternative site.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, could you
4 repeat that please?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we need to
7 designate an alternate site?

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: For?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For the fall
12 meeting next year.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: So right now you're
15 planning to put forth Sand Point, and you're more than
16 welcome to offer an alternative site, if that's what
17 the Council wishes to do.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: False Pass. And then we
20 can talk about Unimak Island.

21

22 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: I think we need to
27 decide, as a Council, if we want to go to Sand Point.
28 If we want to go to Sand Point, then I think we should
29 put that forward as our place where we want to meet so
30 we can meet with our constituents and not put a second
31 place forward.

32

33 (Council nods affirmatively)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
36 that we have a motion on the floor that's been made and
37 seconded. All in favor signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Please let me
47 know if they are going to have a problem with that so I
48 know who to call.

49

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, I can
2 let you know now.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
5 right, closing comments.

6
7 I think I'd like to thank everyone
8 that's here and especially the community of Cold Bay
9 for having this meeting. It's been awhile since we
10 came here. I think we went to Cold Bay and then we
11 went -- well, Sand Point then Cold Bay and then we went
12 to King Cove, we went to Unalaska, Dutch Harbor and now
13 we've made our way back to Cold Bay and I think it's
14 very beneficial for us to meet in these communities, to
15 be able to talk to the people face to face and hear
16 some of the concerns. And it only benefits us as
17 Council members to do a really good job.

18
19 Angela, thank everybody here and, you
20 know, I told as many people that I can, you know, if
21 they need anything or have any questions I can help,
22 just always let me know or let one of these guys know,
23 we're willing to help.

24
25 Izembek Refuge, Greg, I thank you for
26 doing all that you're trying to get done and I hope
27 that you'll be here for awhile and hope we can resolve
28 the issue of Staffing. I think it's important.

29
30 Colton, we're happy to meet you and you
31 were going to get me a card so I know how to get a hold
32 of you. I appreciate that.

33
34 Glenn, glad to see you again, thank you
35 for the fish.

36
37 Karen, thank you.

38
39 I thank the Council for making this
40 trip out here and I was glad that some of you that
41 haven't been here before were able to make it and see
42 what this community is like and it's a beautiful
43 community and lots of resources and we're very proud of
44 the community in our region.

45
46 So with that, does anybody else have
47 any closing remarks.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: I do, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Rebecca.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, it was great to
5 come out to Cold Bay, I've never been here and I know I
6 just made comments about Cold Bay may not be an
7 appropriate hub because there's -- because we don't
8 have a lot of people that live here, but it was great
9 to come out to where Izembek is because I've been
10 hearing reports, you know, from Izembek about Izembek
11 and this really helps me understand what it is is being
12 talked about.

13
14 I am really glad that we didn't, you
15 know, rush through our meeting and try to end early
16 because I think we had some really good conversations
17 and I do think being out in this area gives the people
18 that are out here an opportunity to come in and
19 interact with us and for us to just be in a different
20 context and really take the time to deal with the
21 issues and the questions that come up.

22
23 I do appreciate the public that
24 participated, that sat through the meetings and that
25 gave comment, as well as all of the agency Staff that
26 sat through the meeting and made comments, particularly
27 on the phone. I tend to be on a lot of
28 teleconferences, I know it is challenging. It's
29 definitely not the same as being in the room, so thank
30 you to everyone who hung on through the phone calls.

31
32 And I did enjoy the longest dock ever.
33 We walked out on it, that thing must be a half mile
34 long. But, yeah, that was -- it was very interesting.
35 But Cold Bay was great. It's really beautiful out here
36 and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to come visit.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you,
43 Rick.

44
45 MR. KOSO: Yeah, just me. Yeah, I just
46 wanted to thank everybody, too, sorry I didn't make it
47 to Cold Bay, I was looking forward to it, but I guess
48 I'll have to get there next time when we're there, when
49 we do it again. So anyway thanks, it was a great
50

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1 meeting, all the information that we got from the folks
2 that were on line and present so I just wanted to say
3 thank you all.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
6
7 Melissa.

8
9 MS. BERNS: I have quite a few little
10 notes here. But for one I wanted to say that it was
11 really a pleasure to come out here and actually see
12 Cold Bay in person. It's a little bit emotional for
13 me.

14
15 Cold Bay is the roots for my paternal
16 side of my family. My grandfather came here with the
17 Fish and Wildlife Service in the early 1960s and was
18 transferred over to Kodiak after the '64 Earthquake and
19 Tsunami. So this is the roots of my paternal side. I
20 grew up looking at slide shows, seeing all the work
21 that my grandfather did as a wildlife biologist out
22 here, and so -- and this was where my dad grew up, so,
23 you know, it's home.

24
25 So anyways it was nice to see and
26 actually I wish my dad was here with me, I wanted to
27 bring him but subsistence fishing and filling the
28 smoker and the freezer was more important to him.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MS. BERNS: A couple of things that
33 really came out to me throughout this meeting was one
34 with the Maritime Refuge's presentation. I'd like to
35 see their study map on the *WORS. They said they have
36 a link and a copy or it's all out, it'd be nice to be
37 able to get copies of that to all of us.

38
39 Also really the ANSEP report was really
40 nice to see. We've worked with them probably for a
41 good six years out in Old Harbor so it's nice to
42 actually see what those EarthStations are doing and it
43 would be nice to get more outreach with the rural
44 communities and the students to get involved with that
45 program because it's just a matter of time before we
46 have another event and it'd be nice for people to be
47 more prepared and more aware of the dangers.

48
49 I know that Tundra Swans were brought
50

1 up several times and why there isn't a subsistence hunt
2 in 9D. I think that that's something that maybe we
3 need to look at in the future. I've heard that several
4 times from community members that I met while being
5 here.

6
7 And I think that it's good for us to
8 note the ptarmigan populations because it's a continual
9 issue on the Kodiak Archipelago but then to hear it out
10 here as a concern, it's something that we should keep
11 on our radar.

12
13 I really appreciated Greg's
14 presentation. When he shared about the surveyability
15 study similar -- or what he had done with mule deer, I
16 think that it's something worth looking at with these
17 caribou, and to identify a period of time for
18 conducting these surveys that's best to get the data
19 needed. And from what I hear a lot of times the winter
20 survey is not the best option and there's a lot of
21 challenges in that and so it'd be nice to look at when
22 is actually the best time to conduct those surveys so
23 we can get the best data and make the best decisions.

24
25 I think that, Coral, it was -- last
26 night and just our discussions you brought up that
27 there is a Fish and Wildlife Service book out on
28 introduced species and I think that many of the species
29 that we are looking at on Kodiak Island and dealing
30 with are introduced and also throughout the rest of
31 Alaska and the United States for that matter, and so
32 it'd be nice to have more information on that so we can
33 have a better understanding of the populations and when
34 they were introduced.

35
36 I think that is it.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
39 comments from Council members.

40
41 Leticia, did you have a comment.....

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, yes, Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Well, I can wait until
48 whenever, just don't lose me.

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: His phone is
2 ringing?

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: He said I can wait but
5 just don't lose me.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh. Did you
8 have a comment Leticia.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I did.

11
12 MR. MELENDEZ: Yes, Madame Chair and
13 Council. I just wanted to, on behalf of Cold Bay's
14 defense and Karen Deatherage, who organizes and the
15 rest of her group, she did send me a flier informing
16 the public and I posted it in the two most popular
17 areas, the most busiest areas, the store and the
18 airport. Social media is always the best way to go and
19 I should have plugged it into social media, FaceBook,
20 however I did mention it at the city council meeting,
21 but the post office doesn't allow us to post any
22 upcoming events. But I did post it, just to make sure
23 that you all were aware that it was out there.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Leticia. People are working all day during the week
29 here, I mean most people are at work so it's
30 understandable.

31
32 Pat, did you have a comment.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Ma'am. First off I'd
35 like everybody there to give Della a big hand and a pat
36 on the back for doing such a swell job in Chairing
37 because it's darn difficult to handle all this stuff
38 but anyway she just did a swell job.

39
40 (Applause)

41
42 MR. HOLMES: And after that I would
43 like to say that, you know, in all the years I've been
44 involved in this our Council has made some tremendous
45 growth. I think we probably have one of the best ones
46 ever, the introspection and the ability of folks to
47 look through and find the issues and try to solve them
48 for the greater good of folks for subsistence, I think,
49 is just really swell. And I thought both the Federal

50

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1 and State input to our Council was really good and I --
2 anyway, I think everybody is just doing a swell job and
3 thank you so much and I appreciate being able to be
4 part of it, just a small part.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
7 Everyone, can I entertain a motion to adjourn.

8
9 MR. KOSO: I make a motion to adjourn,
10 Della.

11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to adjourn.

13
14 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, motion
17 made to adjourn. All in favor signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
22 Have a good evening everybody and thanks again.

23
24 (Off record)

25
26 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

